# PARASYTE

# 8

HITOSHI
IWAAKI

# PARASYTE

## 8

**HITOSHI IWAAKI**

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM
LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

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Lettering: Foltz Design

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# HONORIFICS EXPLAINED

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

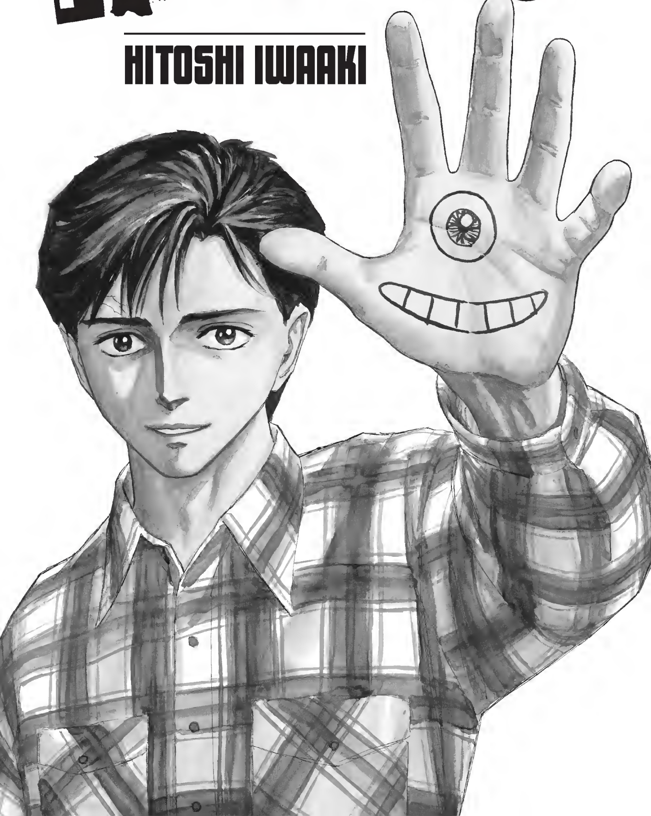
Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

| | |
|---|---|
| **-san:** | This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required. |
| **-sama:** | This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect. |
| **-dono:** | This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect. |
| **-kun:** | This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **-chan:** | This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness. |
| **Bozu:** | This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms “kid” and “squirt.” |
| **Sempai/ Senpai:** | This title suggests that the addressee is one’s senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as “sempai.” It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company. |
| **Kohai:** | This is the opposite of “sempai” and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station. |
| **Sensei:** | Literally meaning “one who has come before,” this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art. |
| **-[blank]:** | This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one’s name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn’t been earned, it can be very insulting. |

# PARASYTE 8

HITOSHI IWAAKI



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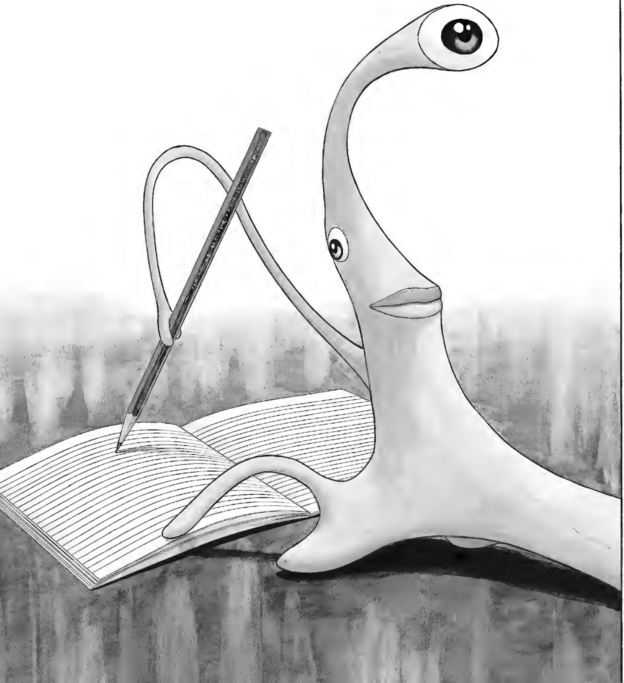
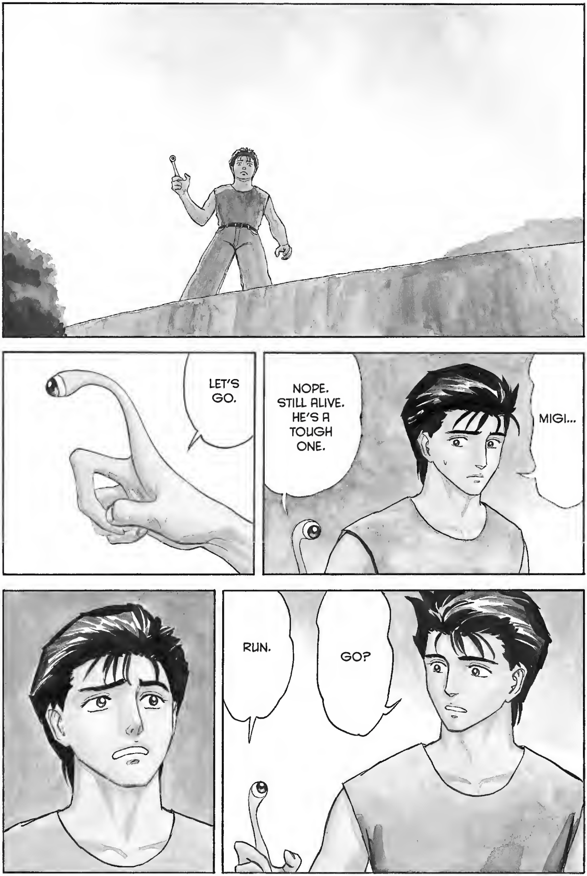
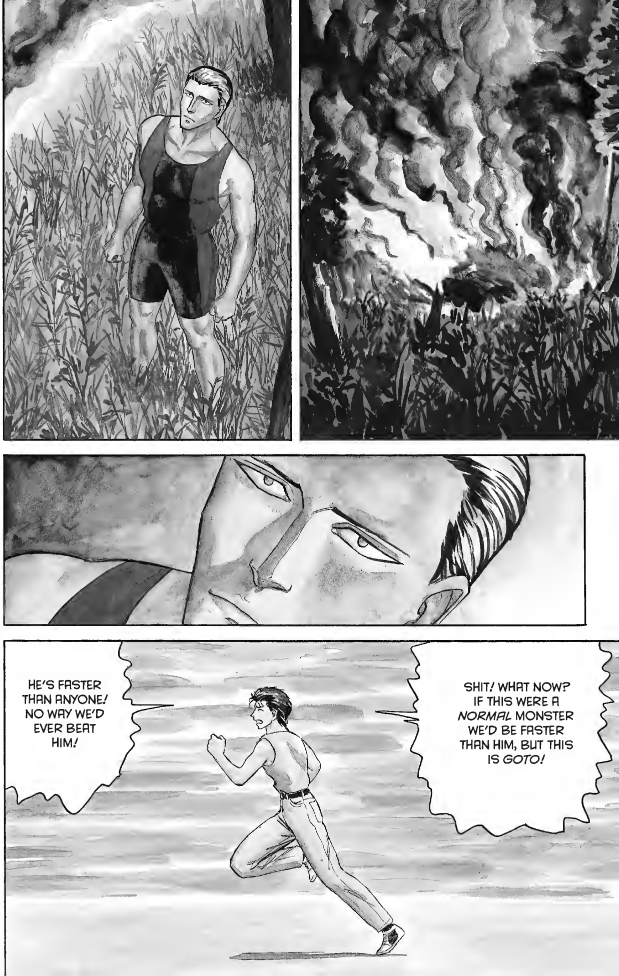
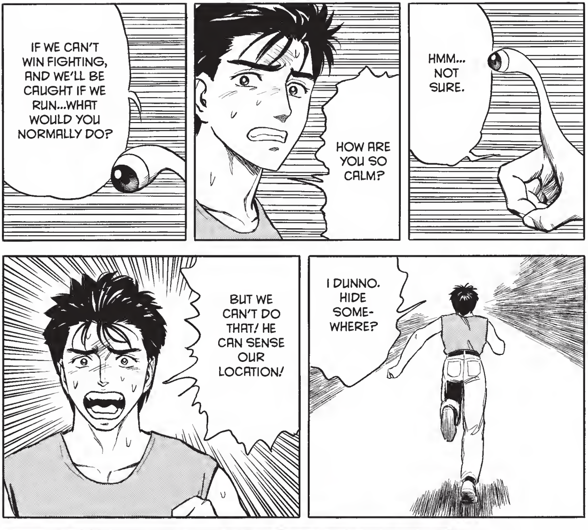
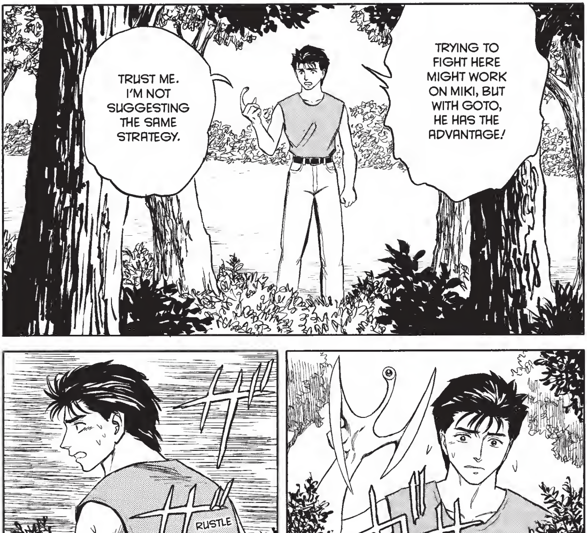
# CHAPTER 58: MIGI

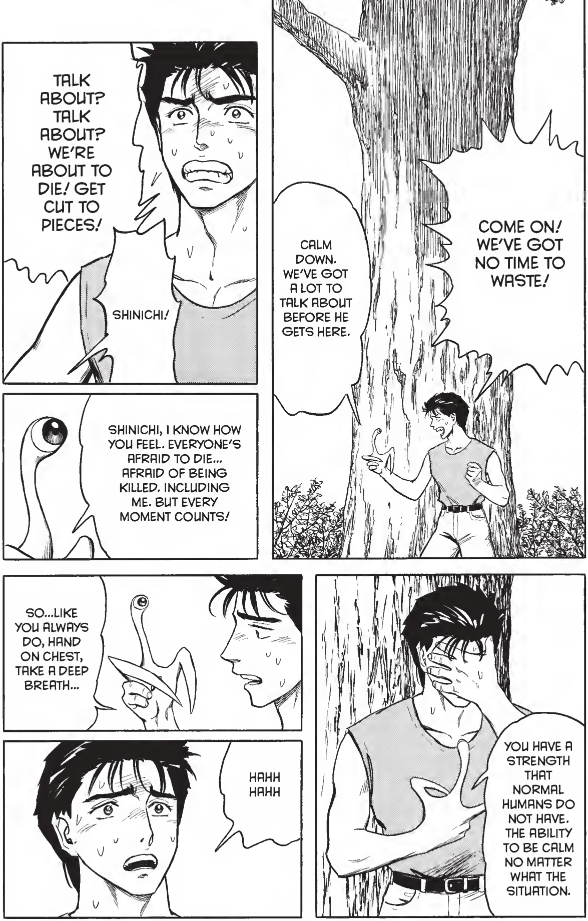


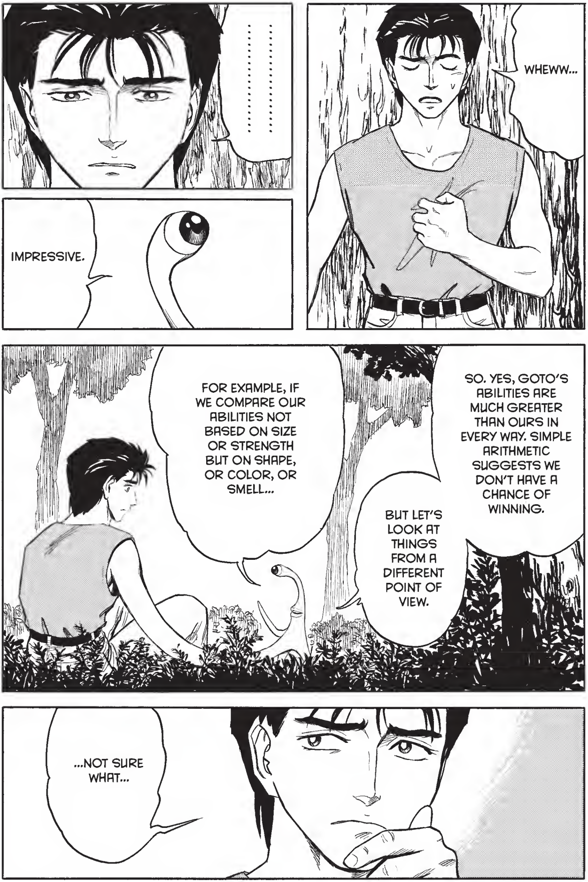

MIGI...
NOPE. STILL ALIVE. HE'S A TOUGH ONE.
LET'S GO.
GO?
RUN.

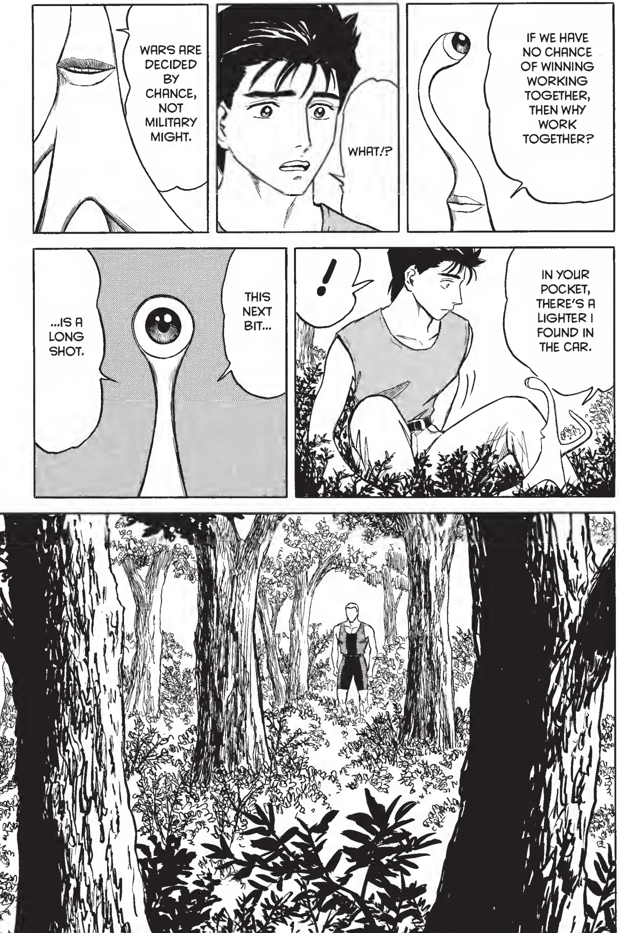

SHIT! WHAT NOW? IF THIS WERE A *NORMAL* MONSTER WE'D BE FASTER THAN HIM, BUT THIS IS *GOTO!*
HE'S FASTER THAN ANYONE! NO WAY WE'D EVER BEAT HIM!

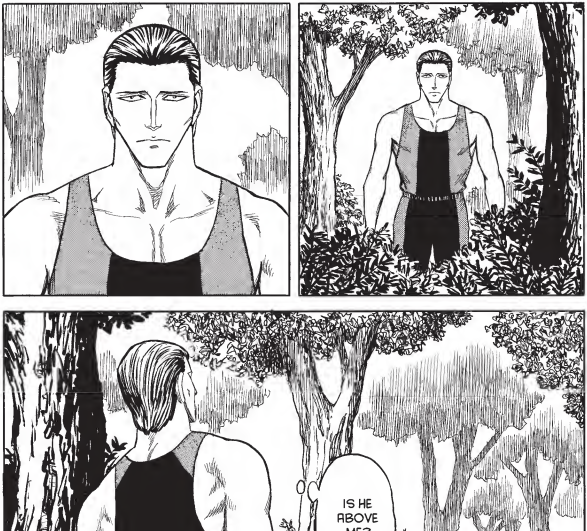

IF WE CAN'T WIN FIGHTING, AND WE'LL BE CAUGHT IF WE RUN...WHAT WOULD YOU NORMALLY DO?
HOW ARE YOU SO CALM?
HMM... NOT SURE.
BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT! HE CAN SENSE OUR LOCATION!
I DUNNO. HIDE SOME-WHERE?
RIGHT. WHICH MEANS...
HUH?
INTO THAT FOREST.

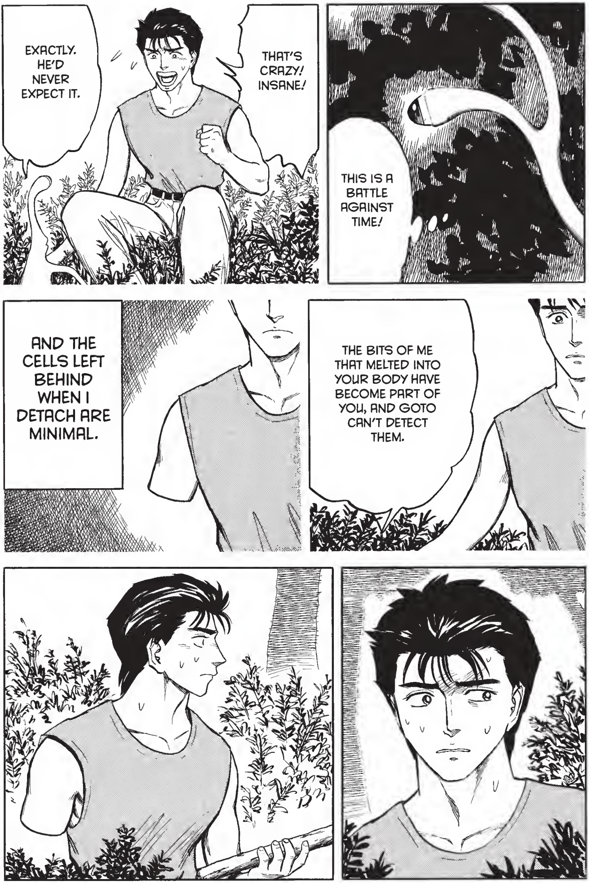

TRYING TO FIGHT HERE MIGHT WORK ON MIKI, BUT WITH GOTO, HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE!
TRUST ME. I'M NOT SUGGESTING THE SAME STRATEGY.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HAHH HAHH
OKAY, STOP.
AH!?

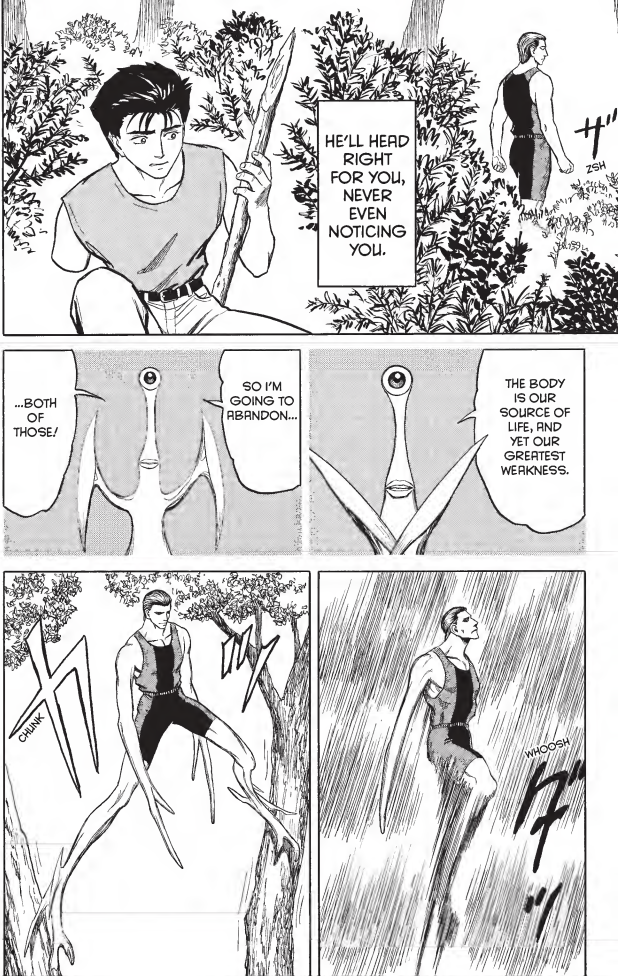

COME ON! WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE!
CALM DOWN. WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT BEFORE HE GETS HERE.
TALK ABOUT? TALK ABOUT? WE'RE ABOUT TO DIE! GET CUT TO PIECES!
SHINICHI!
SHINICHI, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. EVERYONE'S AFRAID TO DIE... AFRAID OF BEING KILLED. INCLUDING ME. BUT EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!
SO...LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO, HAND ON CHEST, TAKE A DEEP BREATH...
HAHH HAHH
YOU HAVE A STRENGTH THAT NORMAL HUMANS DO NOT HAVE. THE ABILITY TO BE CALM NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION.

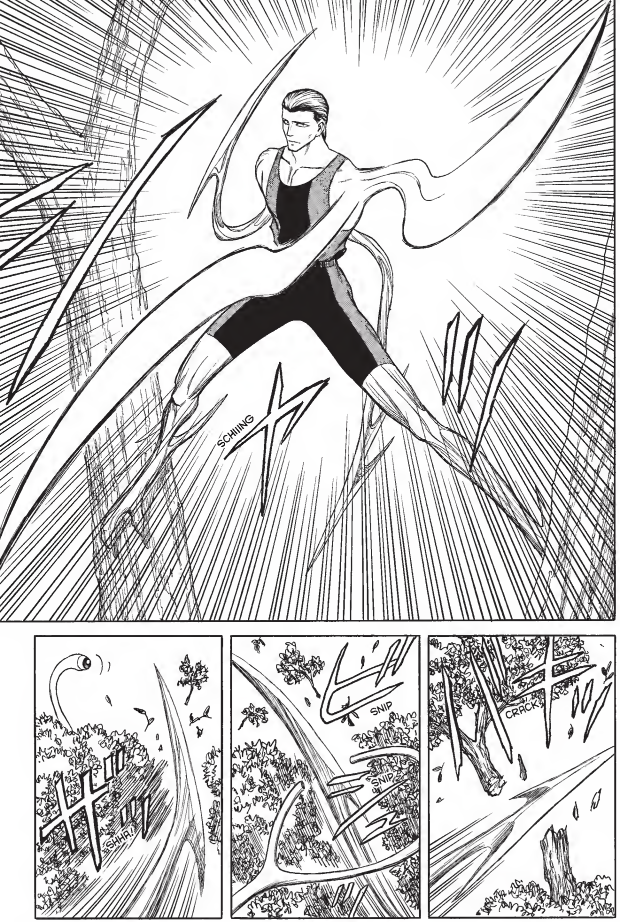

WHEWW...
......
IMPRESSIVE.
SO. YES, GOTO'S ABILITIES ARE MUCH GREATER THAN OURS IN EVERY WAY. SIMPLE ARITHMETIC SUGGESTS WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING.
BUT LET'S LOOK AT THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE COMPARE OUR ABILITIES NOT BASED ON SIZE OR STRENGTH BUT ON SHAPE, OR COLOR, OR SMELL...
...NOT SURE WHAT...

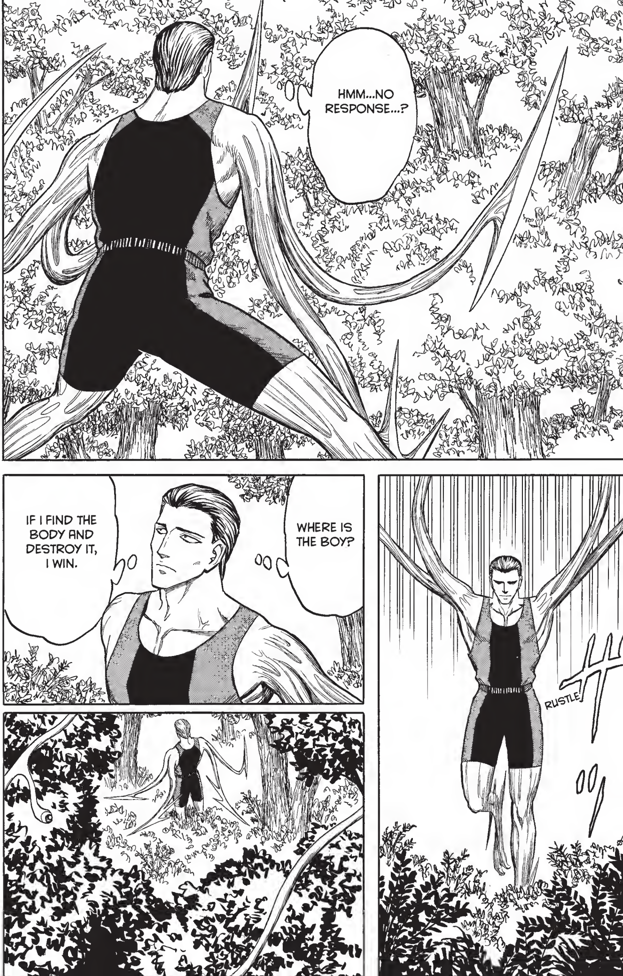

WARS ARE DECIDED BY CHANCE, NOT MILITARY MIGHT.
WHAT!?
IF WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING WORKING TOGETHER, THEN WHY WORK TOGETHER?
...IS A LONG SHOT.
THIS NEXT BIT...
!
IN YOUR POCKET, THERE'S A LIGHTER I FOUND IN THE CAR.

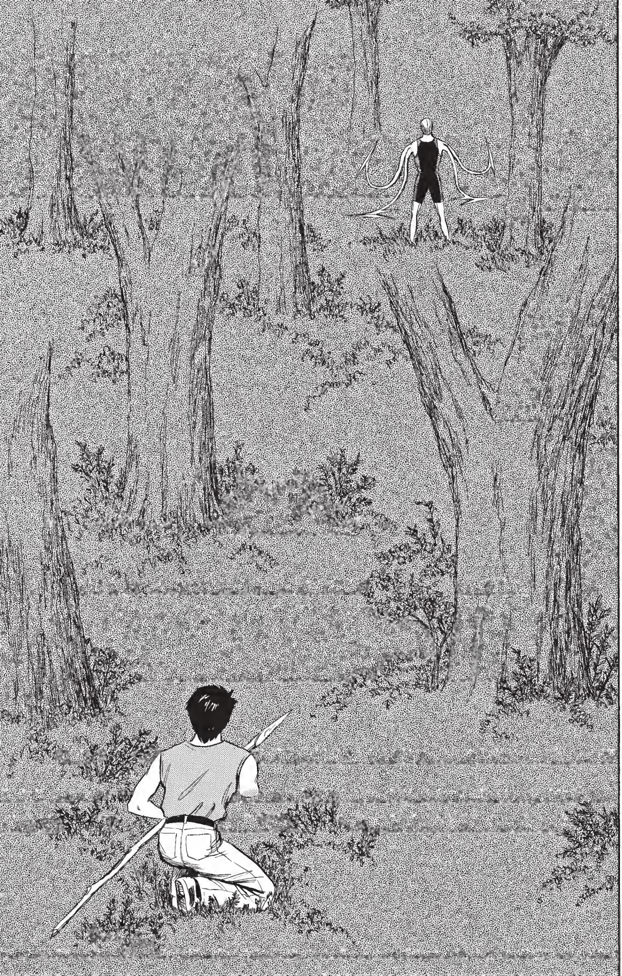

IS HE ABOVE ME?
SPREADING HIMSELF OUT BEHIND A BRANCH...
IF THIS IS A CUNNING PLAN...HOW NICE OF HIM.
..........

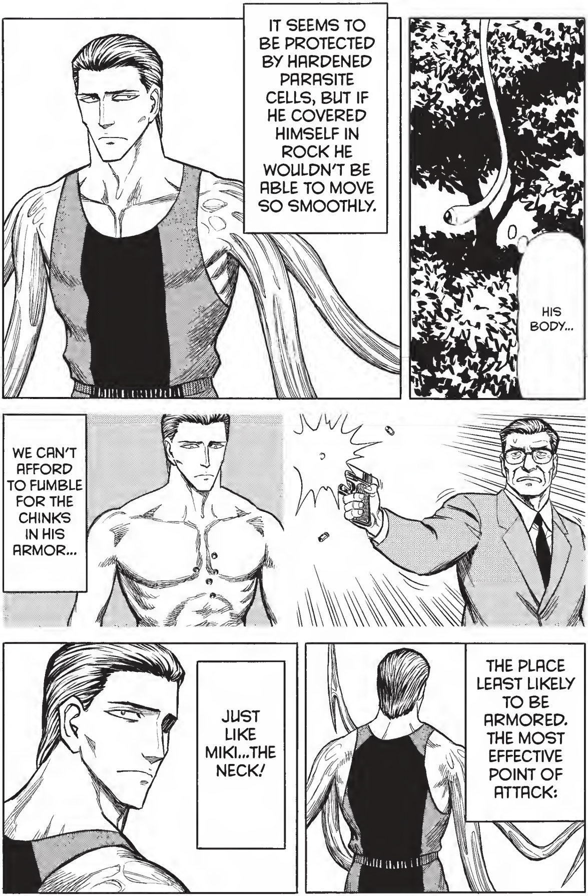

THAT'S CRAZY! INSANE!
EXACTLY. HE'D NEVER EXPECT IT.
THIS IS A BATTLE AGAINST TIME!
AND THE CELLS LEFT BEHIND WHEN I DETACH ARE MINIMAL.
THE BITS OF ME THAT MELTED INTO YOUR BODY HAVE BECOME PART OF YOU, AND GOTO CAN'T DETECT THEM.

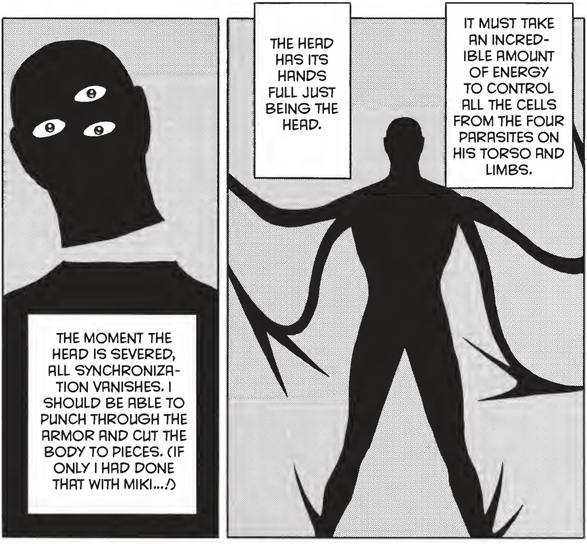

HE'LL HEAD RIGHT FOR YOU, NEVER EVEN NOTICING YOU.
ZSH
THE BODY IS OUR SOURCE OF LIFE, AND YET OUR GREATEST WEAKNESS.
SO I'M GOING TO ABANDON...
...BOTH OF THOSE!
WHOOSH
CHUNK

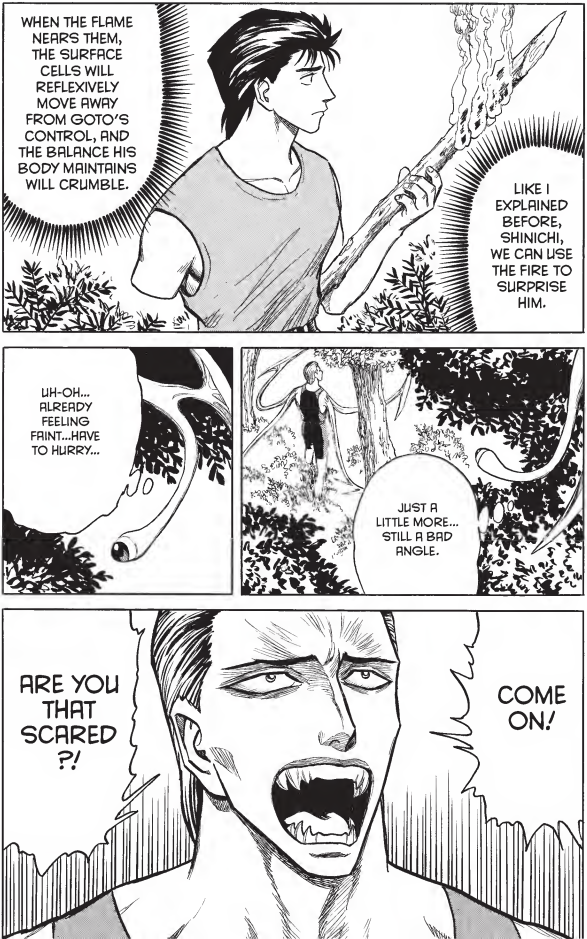

SCHIING
CRACK
SNIP
SNIP
SHHA!

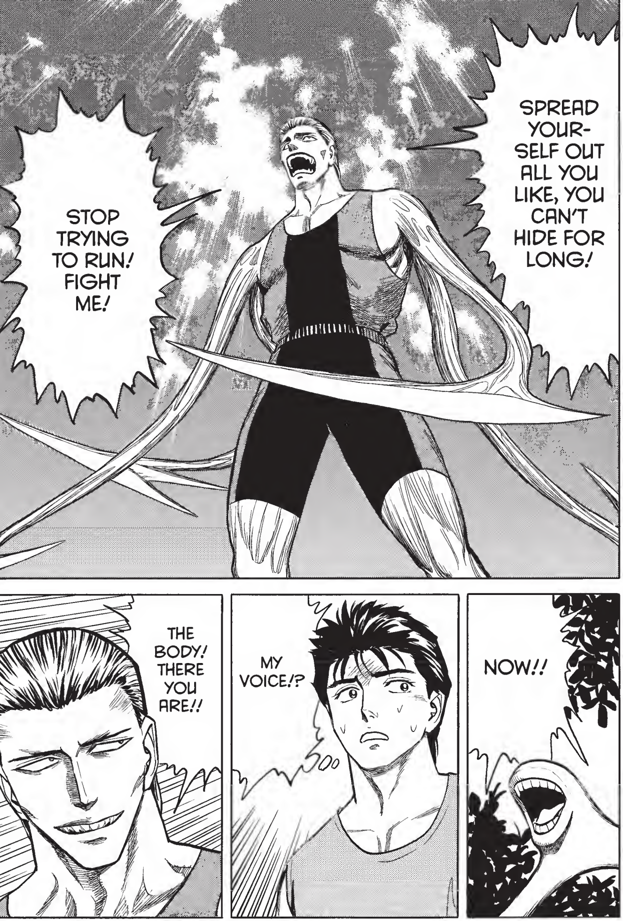

HMM...NO RESPONSE...?
RUSTLE
WHERE IS THE BOY?
IF I FIND THE BODY AND DESTROY IT, I WIN.

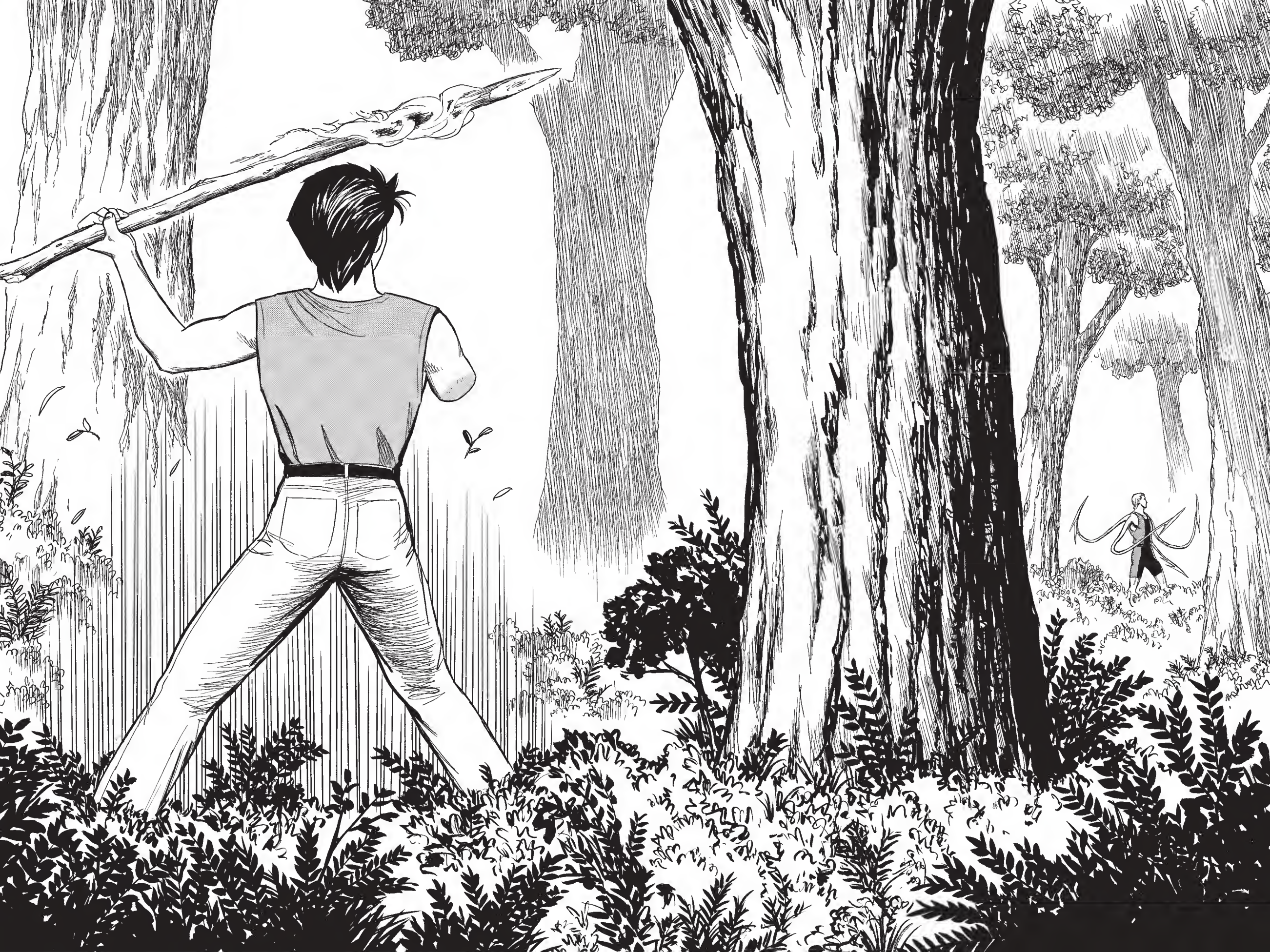


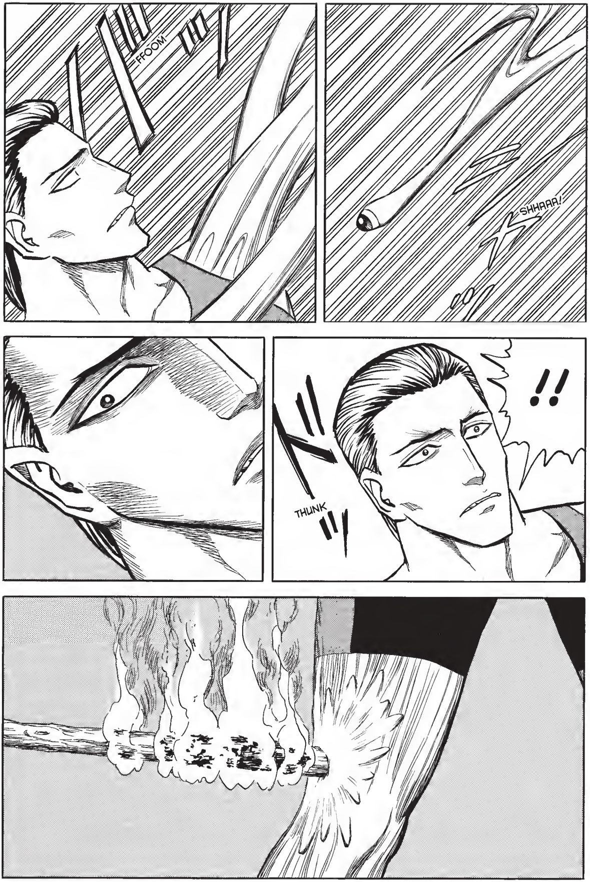

HIS BODY...
IT SEEMS TO BE PROTECTED BY HARDENED PARASITE CELLS, BUT IF HE COVERED HIMSELF IN ROCK HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE SO SMOOTHLY.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO FUMBLE FOR THE CHINKS IN HIS ARMOR...
THE PLACE LEAST LIKELY TO BE ARMORED. THE MOST EFFECTIVE POINT OF ATTACK:
JUST LIKE MIKI...THE NECK!

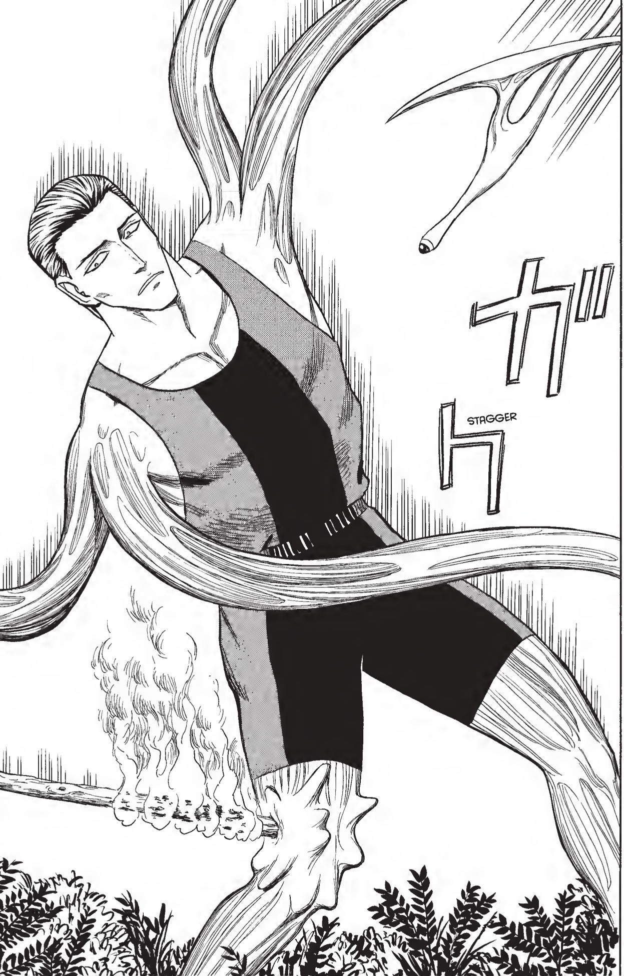

IT MUST TAKE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO CONTROL ALL THE CELLS FROM THE FOUR PARASITES ON HIS TORSO AND LIMBS.
THE HEAD HAS ITS HANDS FULL JUST BEING THE HEAD.
THE MOMENT THE HEAD IS SEVERED, ALL SYNCHRONIZATION VANISHES. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUNCH THROUGH THE ARMOR AND CUT THE BODY TO PIECES. (IF ONLY I HAD DONE THAT WITH MIKI...!)
COME ON, MIGI. HURRY UP!
IF YOU DON'T MOVE QUICKLY, YOU'LL...
WE ONLY HAVE ONE SHOT AT CUTTING OFF HIS HEAD! WITH HIS SPEED AND POWER, HE WON'T GIVE US A SECOND!

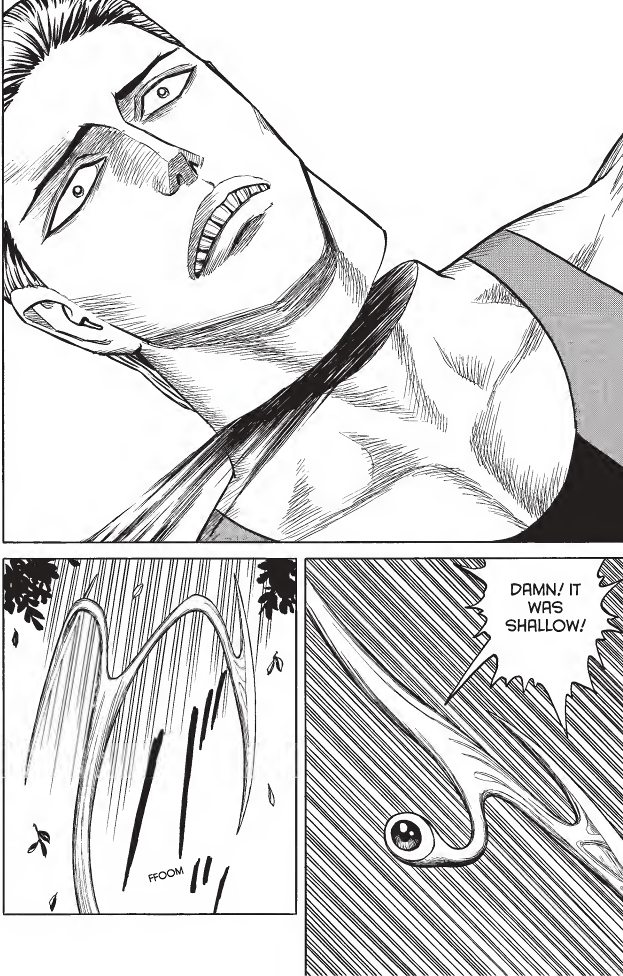

LIKE I EXPLAINED BEFORE, SHINICHI, WE CAN USE THE FIRE TO SURPRISE HIM.
WHEN THE FLAME NEARS THEM, THE SURFACE CELLS WILL REFLEXIVELY MOVE AWAY FROM GOTO'S CONTROL, AND THE BALANCE HIS BODY MAINTAINS WILL CRUMBLE.
JUST A LITTLE MORE... STILL A BAD ANGLE.
UH-OH... ALREADY FEELING FAINT...HAVE TO HURRY...
COME ON!
ARE YOU THAT SCARED?!

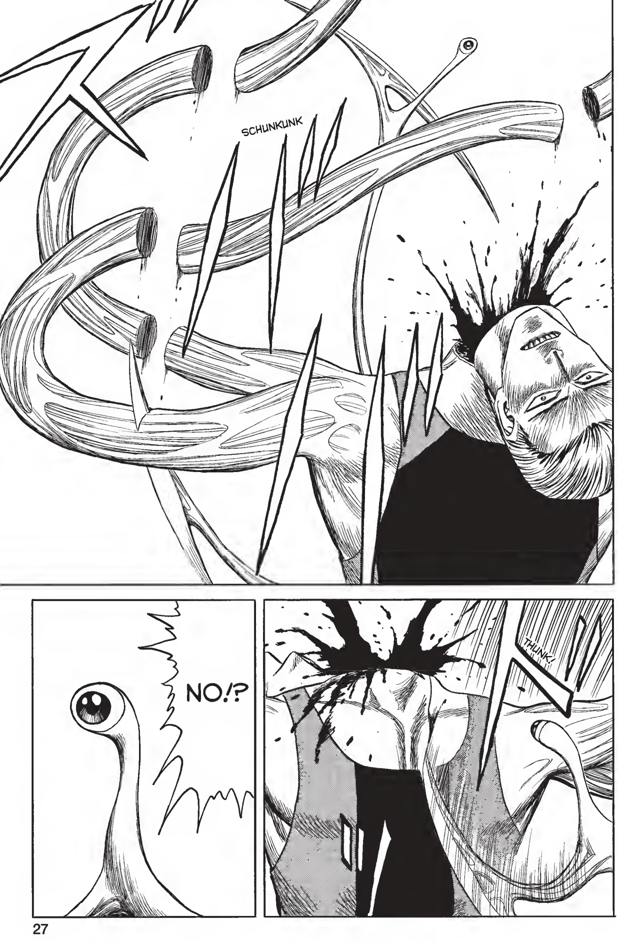

SPREAD YOURSELF OUT ALL YOU LIKE, YOU CAN'T HIDE FOR LONG!
STOP TRYING TO RUN! FIGHT ME!
NOW!!
MY VOICE!?
THE BODY! THERE YOU ARE!!

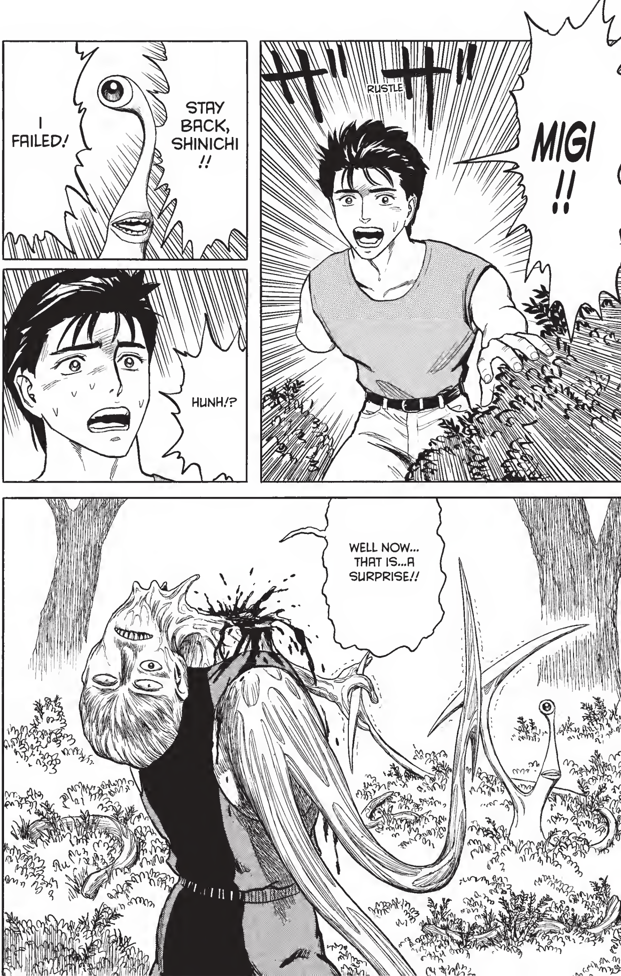


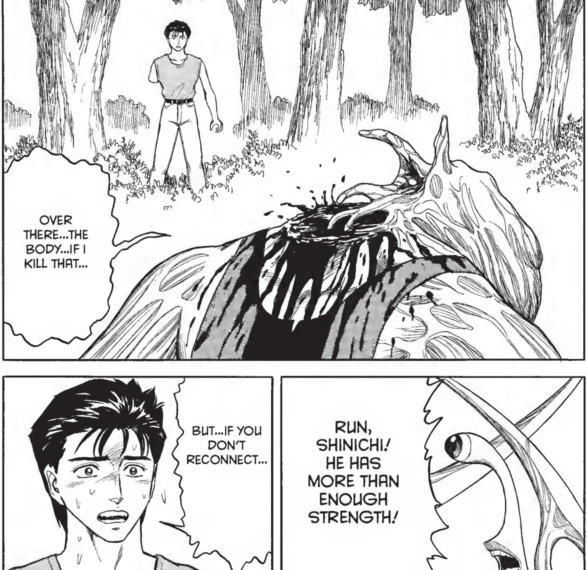

SHHAAA!
FFOOM
!!
THUNK

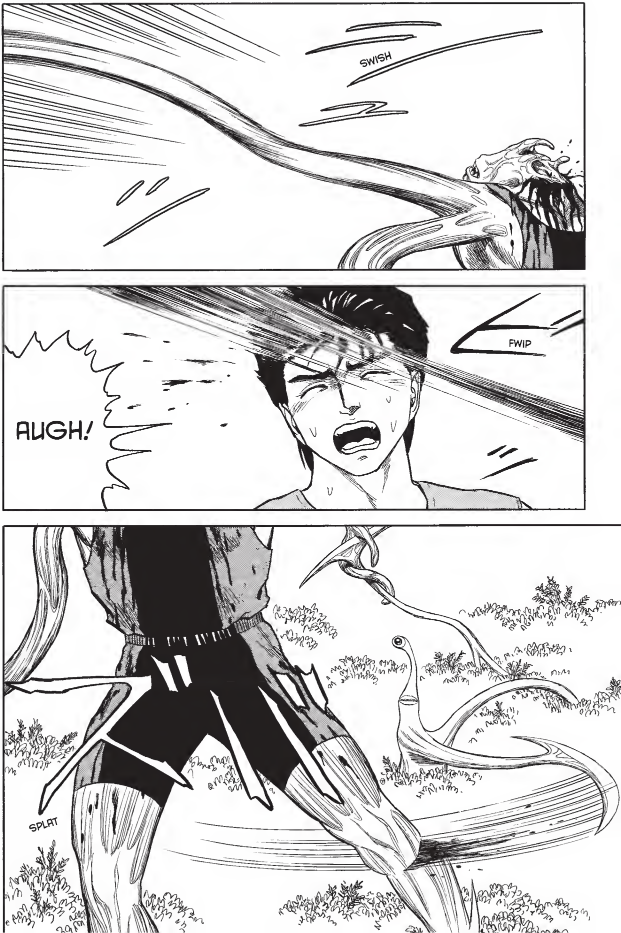

ガク
STAGGER

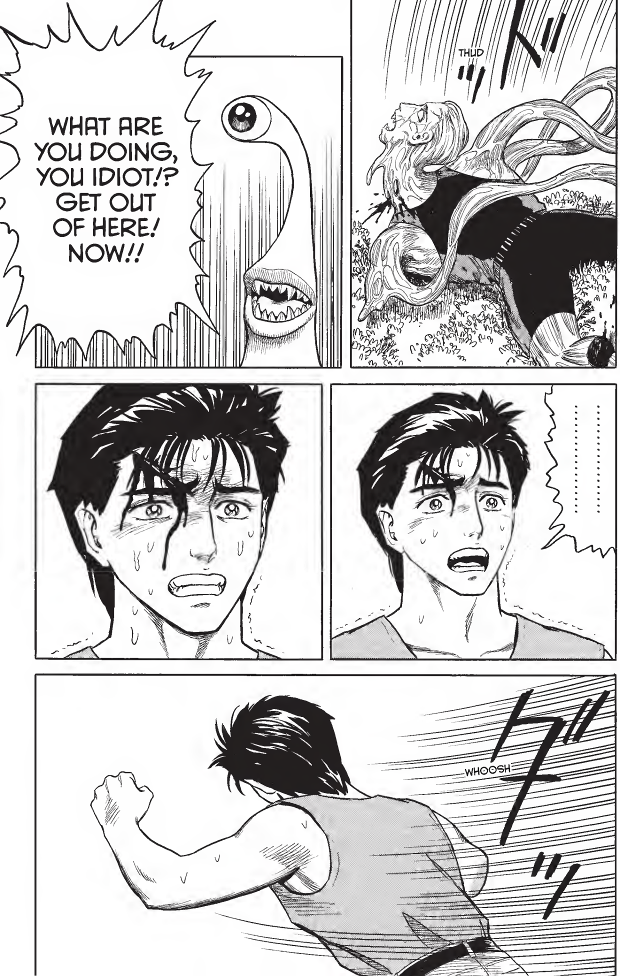

DAMN! IT WAS SHALLOW!
FFOOM

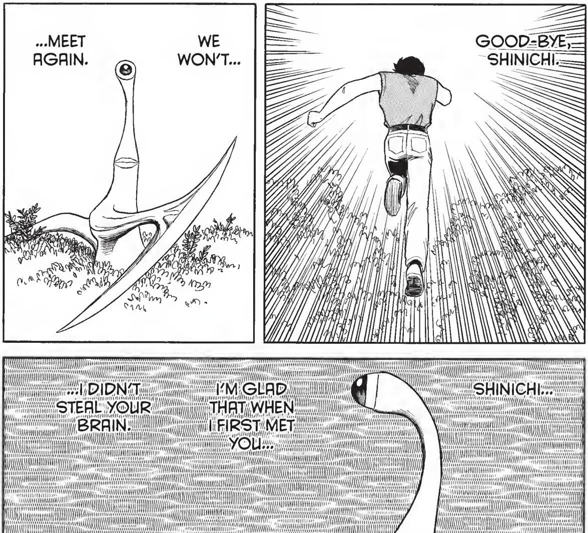

SCHUNKUNK
THUNK!
NO!?

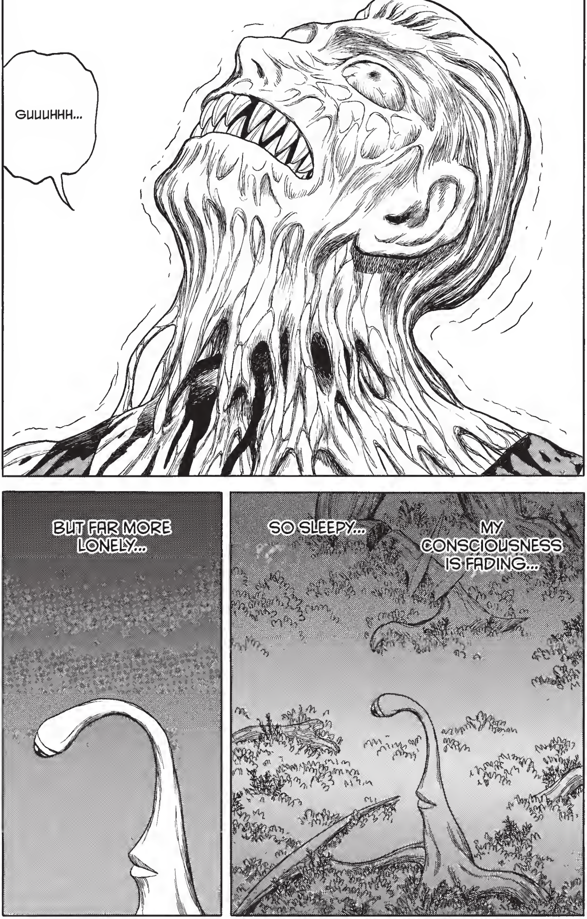

RUSTLE
MIGI!!
STAY BACK, SHINICHI!!
I FAILED!
HUNH!?
WELL NOW... THAT IS...A SURPRISE!!

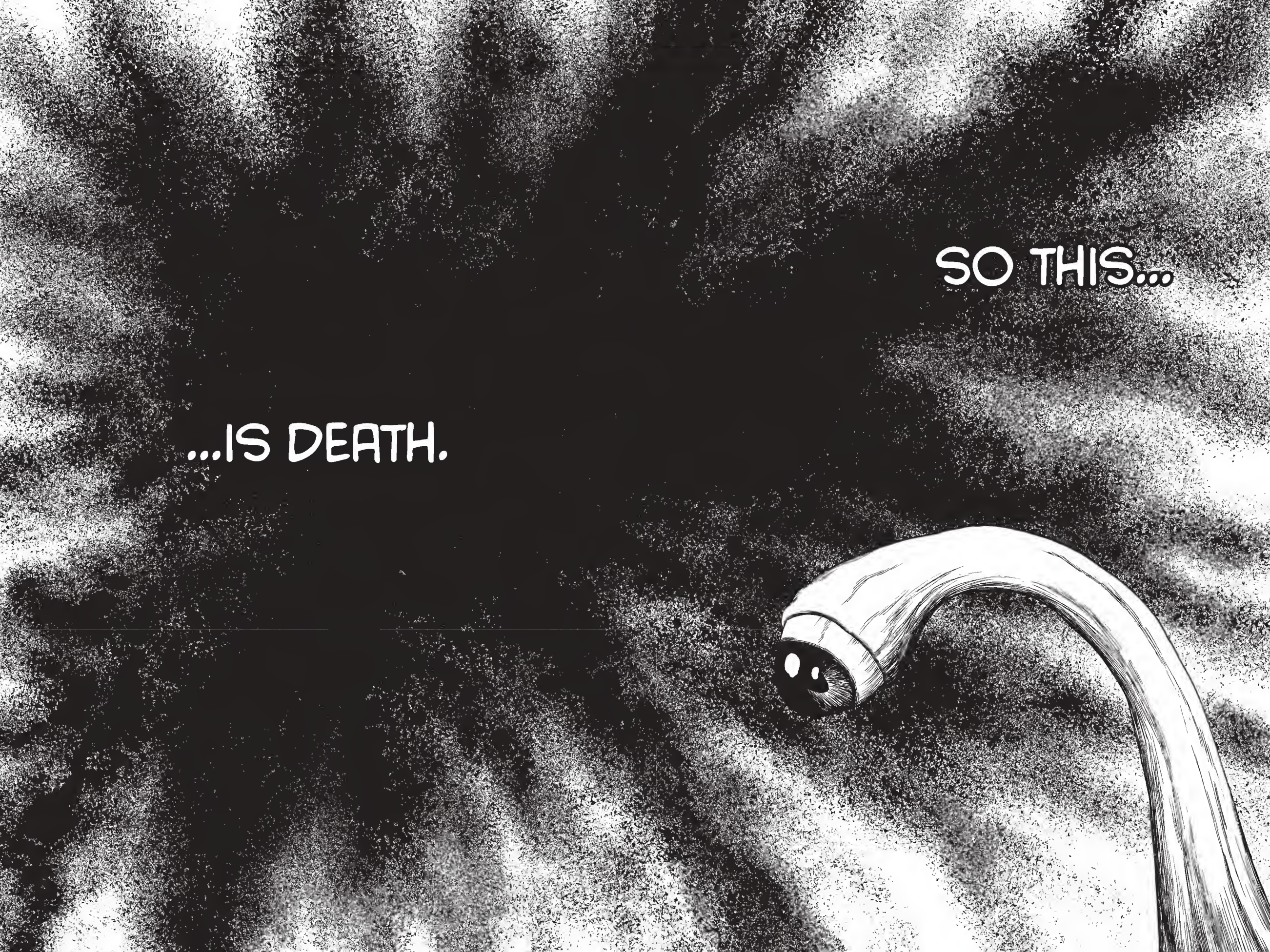

OVER THERE...THE BODY...IF I KILL THAT...
BUT...IF YOU DON'T RECONNECT...
RUN, SHINICHI! HE HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH STRENGTH!
BUT... MIGI...
STAY BACK! NO NEED FOR US BOTH TO DIE! GET OUT OF HERE!

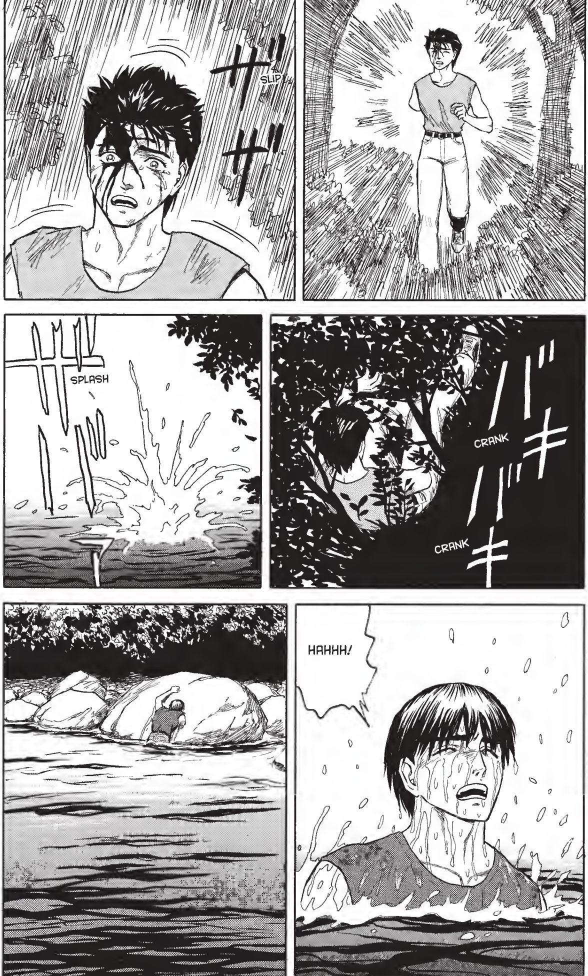

SWISH
FWIP
AUGH!
SPLAT

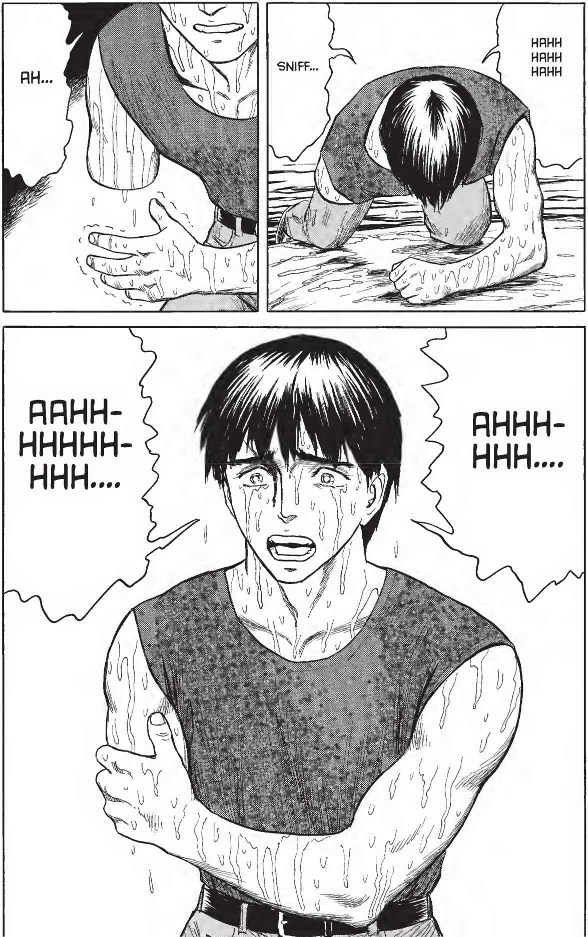

ドッ
THUD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT!? GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!!
……
ダッ
WHOOSH

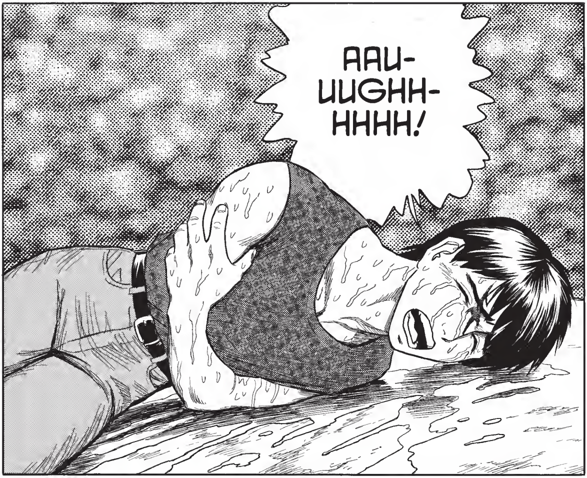

GOOD-BYE, SHINICHI.
WE WON'T...
...MEET AGAIN.
SHINICHI...
I'M GLAD THAT WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...
...I DIDN'T STEAL YOUR BRAIN.
THIS WAY, WE COULD BE FRIENDS...HAVE FUN TOGETHER.

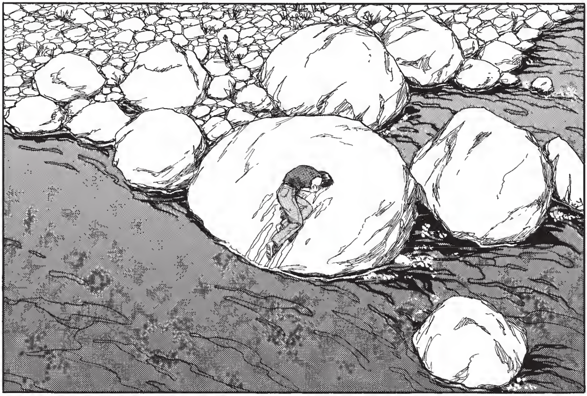

GUUUHHH...
BUT FAR MORE LONELY...
SO SLEEPY...
MY CONSCIOUSNESS IS FADING...


SO THIS...
...IS DEATH.


ザザ
SLIP
バキ
CRANK
バキ
CRANK
SPLASH
HAHHH!

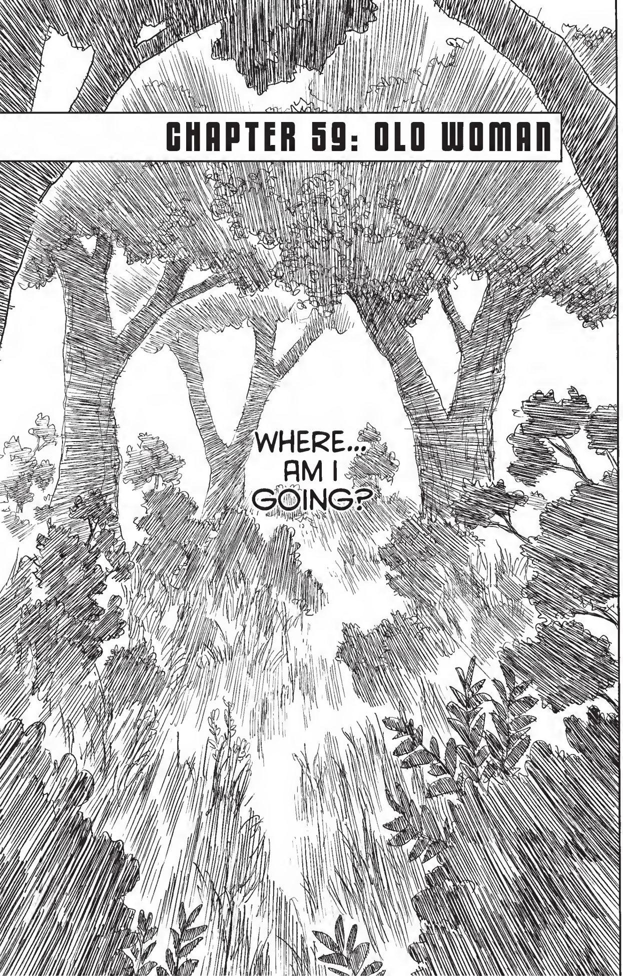

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
SNIFF...
AH...
AHHH-HHH....
AAHH-HHHHH-HHH....

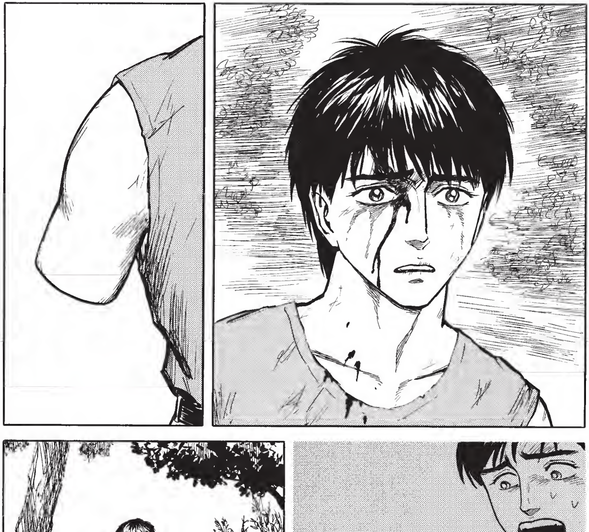

AAU-
UUGHH-
HHHH!

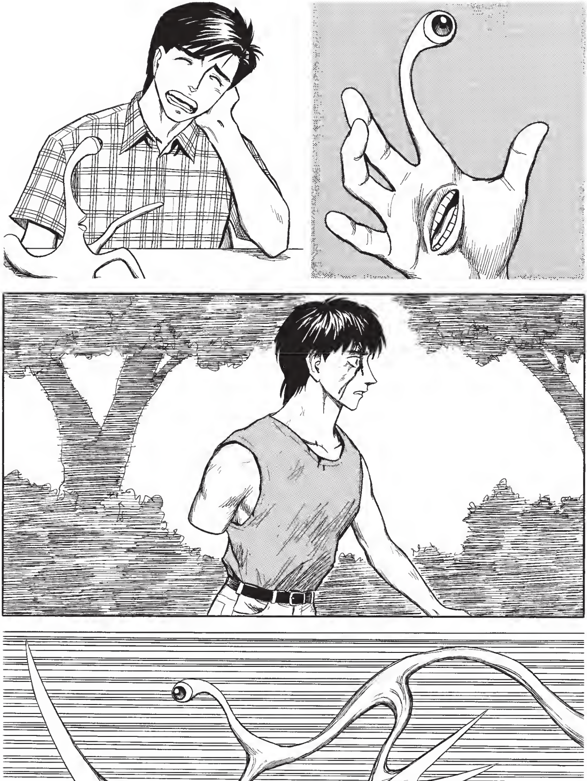


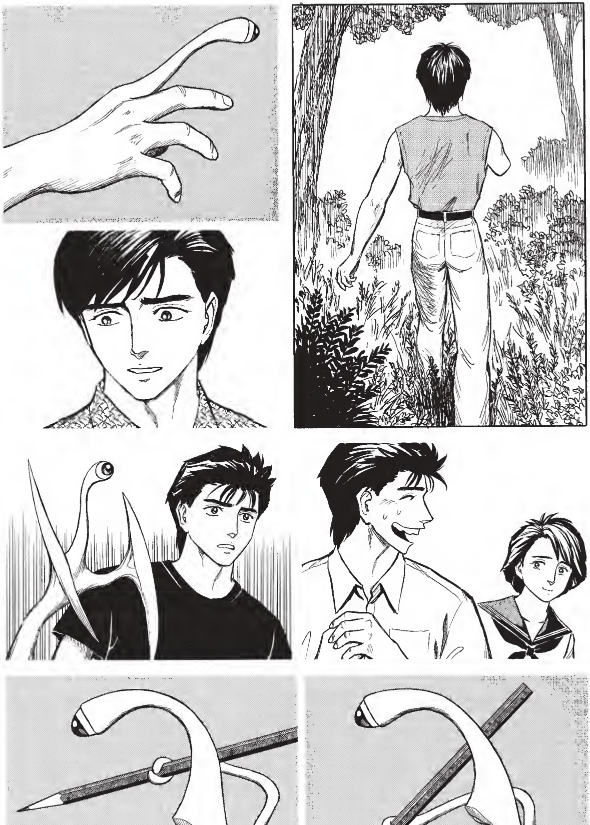
CHAPTER 58: THE END

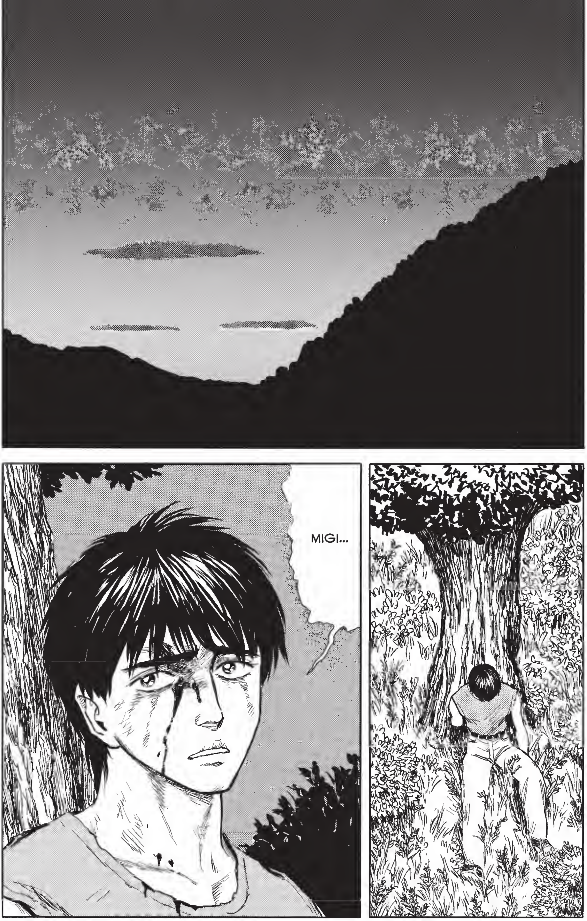
# CHAPTER 59: OLD WOMAN

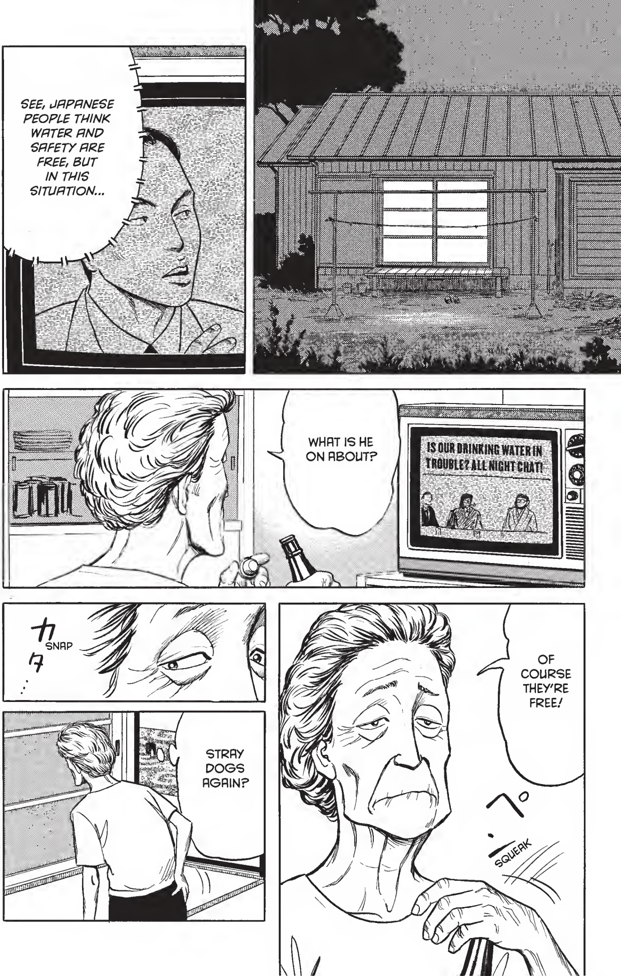

WHERE... AM I GOING?

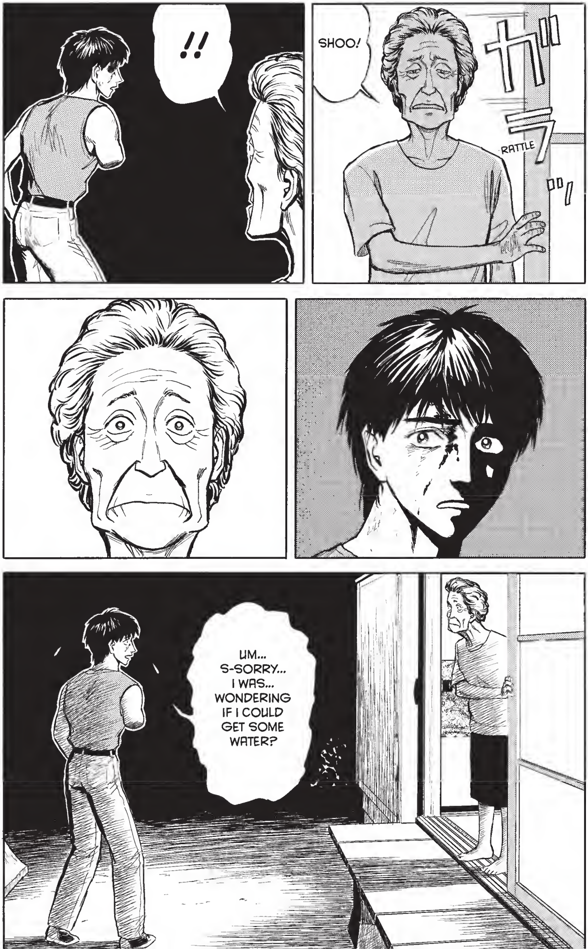

DRE
AN
VIS

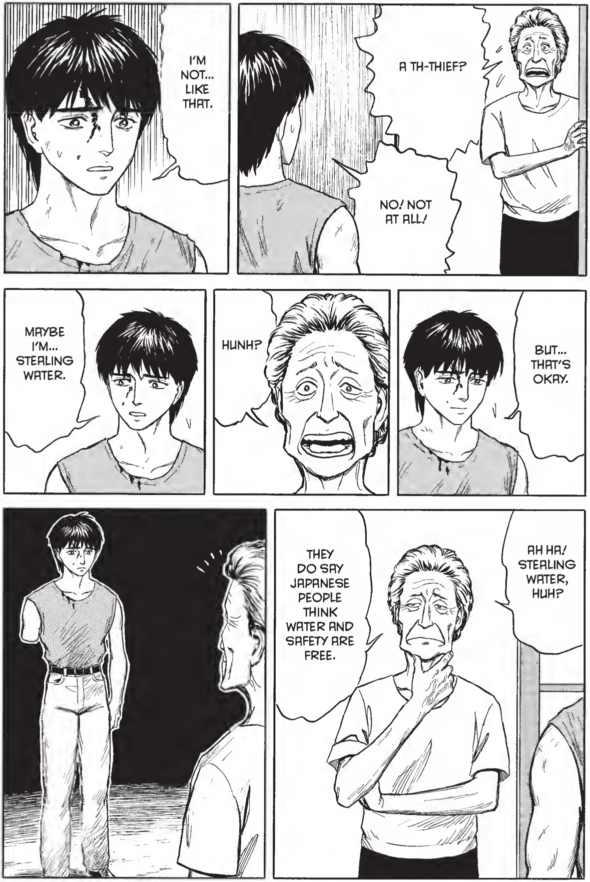


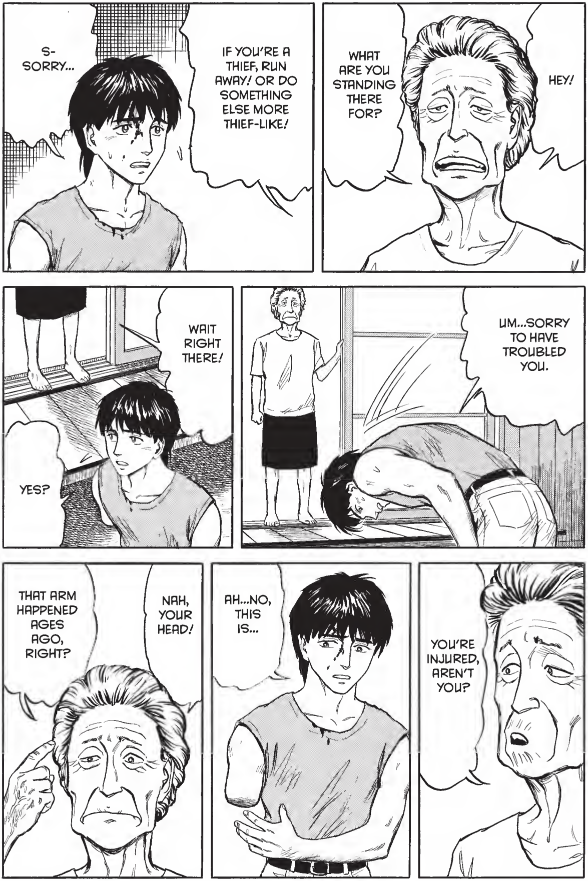


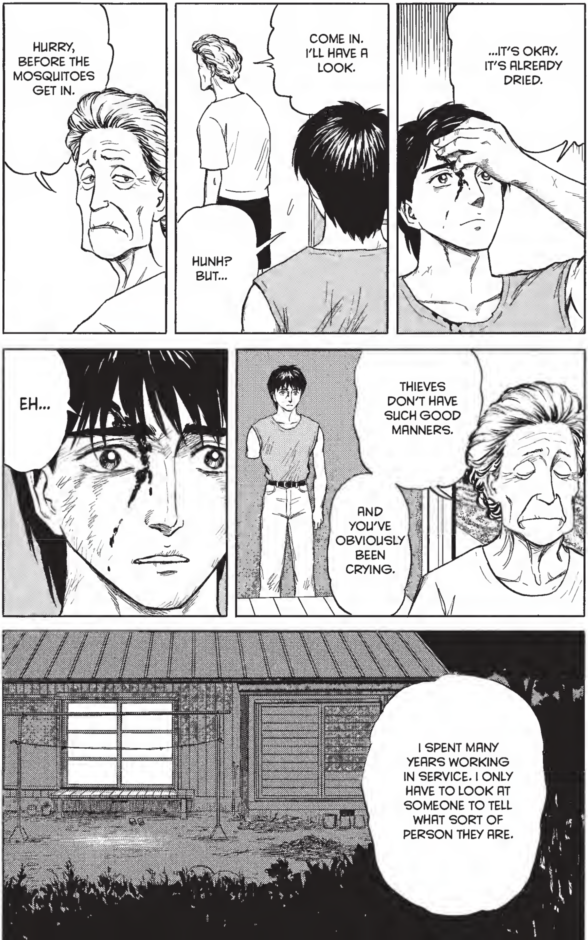

MIGI...

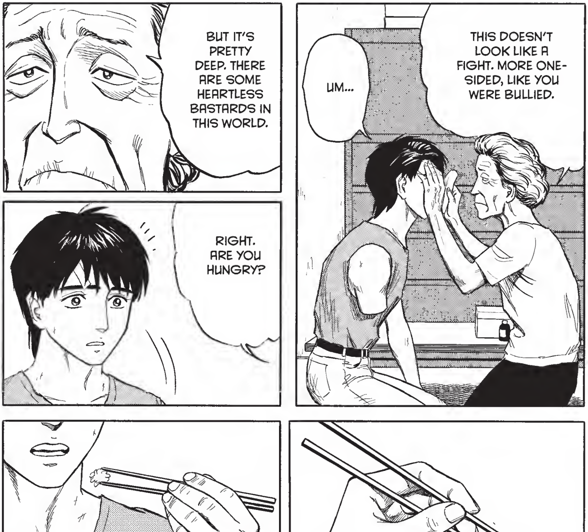

SEE, JAPANESE PEOPLE THINK WATER AND SAFETY ARE FREE, BUT IN THIS SITUATION...
IS OUR DRINKING WATER IN TROUBLE? ALL NIGHT CHAT!
WHAT IS HE ON ABOUT?
OF COURSE THEY'RE FREE!
ヘ°
SQUEAK
カク
SNAP
STRAY DOGS AGAIN?

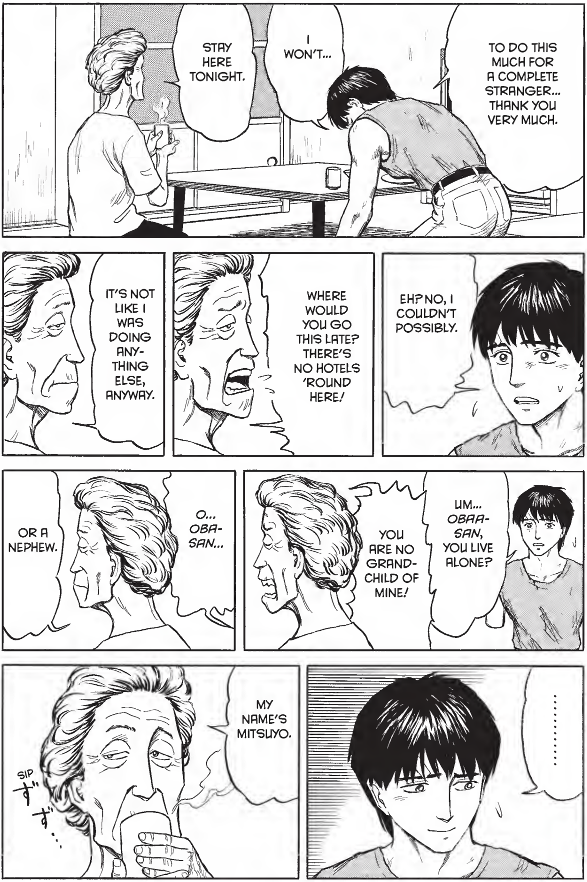

SHOO!
ガラ
RATTLE
ッ
!!
UM... S-SORRY... I WAS... WONDERING IF I COULD GET SOME WATER?


I'M NOT... LIKE THAT.
A TH-THIEF?
NO! NOT AT ALL!
MAYBE I'M... STEALING WATER.
HUNH?
BUT... THAT'S OKAY.
AH HA! STEALING WATER, HUH?
THEY DO SAY JAPANESE PEOPLE THINK WATER AND SAFETY ARE FREE.

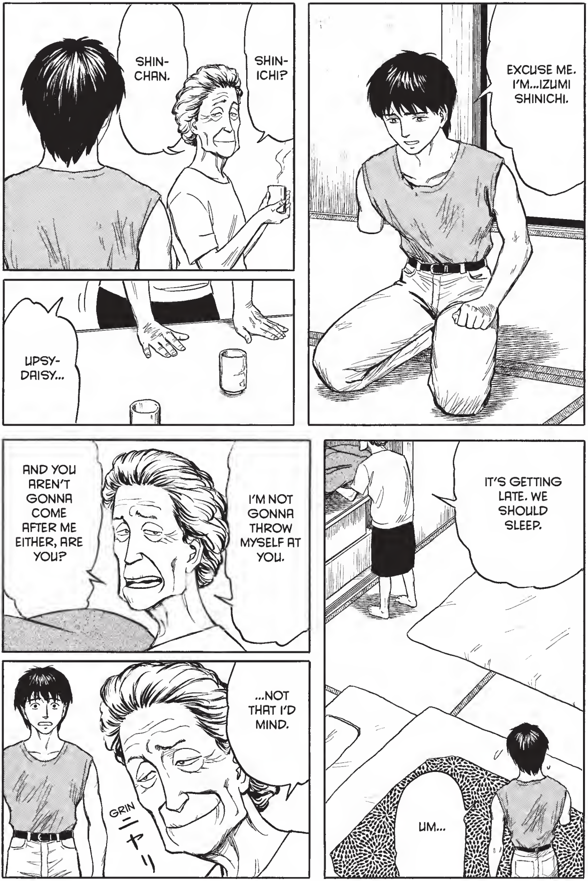

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU STANDING THERE FOR?
IF YOU'RE A THIEF, RUN AWAY! OR DO SOMETHING ELSE MORE THIEF-LIKE!
S-SORRY...
UM...SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU.
WAIT RIGHT THERE!
YES?
YOU'RE INJURED, AREN'T YOU?
AH...NO, THIS IS...
NAH, YOUR HEAD!
THAT ARM HAPPENED AGES AGO, RIGHT?

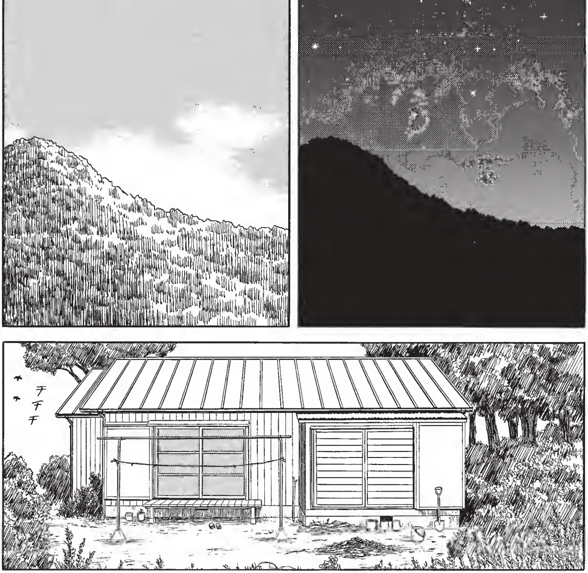

HURRY, BEFORE THE MOSQUITOES GET IN.
COME IN. I'LL HAVE A LOOK.
HUNH? BUT...
...IT'S OKAY. IT'S ALREADY DRIED.
EH...
THIEVES DON'T HAVE SUCH GOOD MANNERS.
AND YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN CRYING.
I SPENT MANY YEARS WORKING IN SERVICE. I ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT SOMEONE TO TELL WHAT SORT OF PERSON THEY ARE.

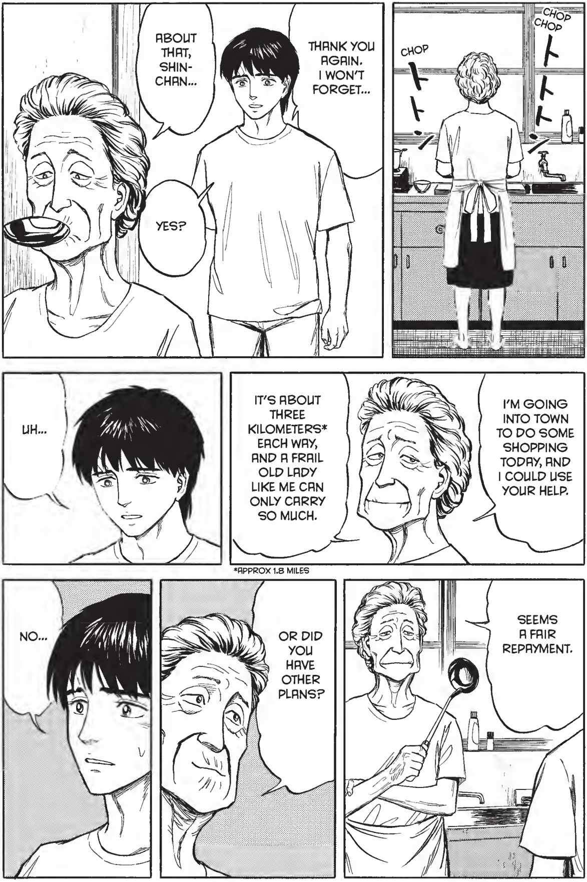

THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A FIGHT. MORE ONE-SIDED, LIKE YOU WERE BULLIED.
UM...
BUT IT'S PRETTY DEEP. THERE ARE SOME HEARTLESS BASTARDS IN THIS WORLD.
RIGHT. ARE YOU HUNGRY?
........



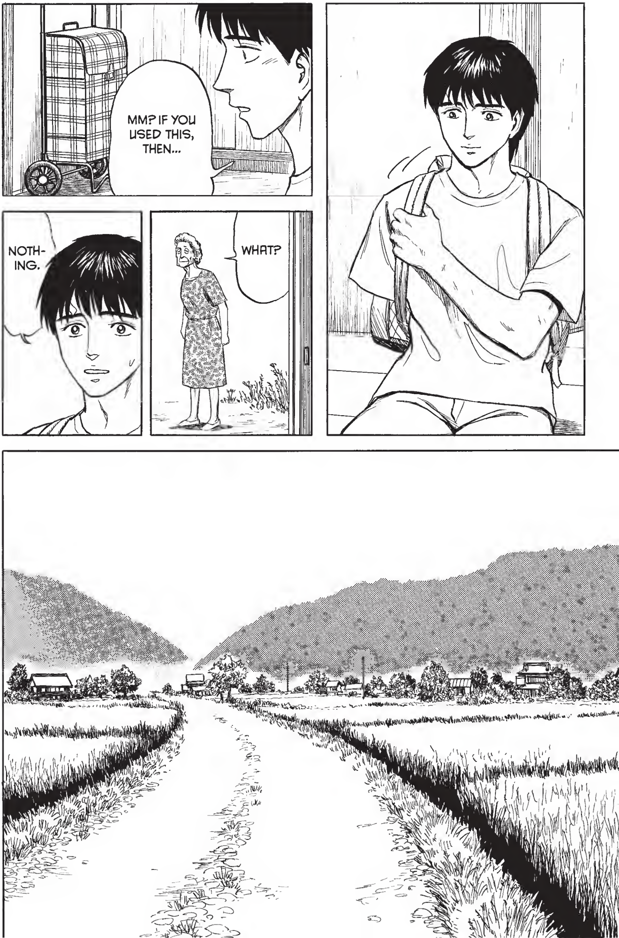
TO DO THIS MUCH FOR A COMPLETE STRANGER... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I WON'T...
STAY HERE TONIGHT.
EH? NO, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY.
WHERE WOULD YOU GO THIS LATE? THERE'S NO HOTELS 'ROUND HERE!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS DOING ANYTHING ELSE, ANYWAY.
UM... OBAA-SAN, YOU LIVE ALONE?
YOU ARE NO GRANDCHILD OF MINE!
O... OBA-SAN...
OR A NEPHEW.
............
MY NAME'S MITSUYO.
SIP
ず ず...

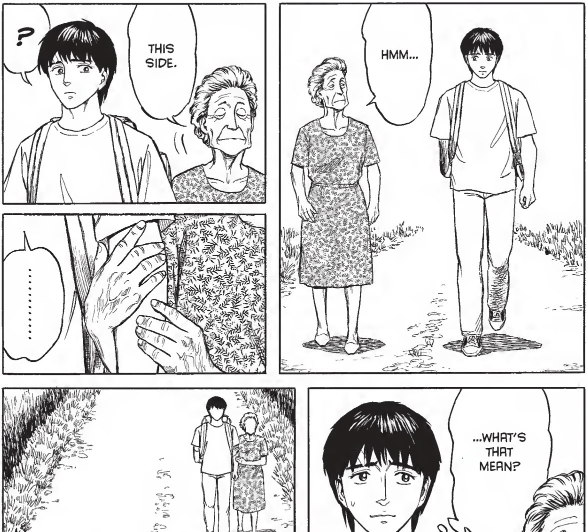

EXCUSE ME. I'M...IZUMI SHINICHI.
SHIN-ICHI?
SHIN-CHAN.
UPSY-DAISY...
IT'S GETTING LATE. WE SHOULD SLEEP.
UM...
I'M NOT GONNA THROW MYSELF AT YOU.
AND YOU AREN'T GONNA COME AFTER ME EITHER, ARE YOU?
...NOT THAT I'D MIND.
GRIN
ニヤリ

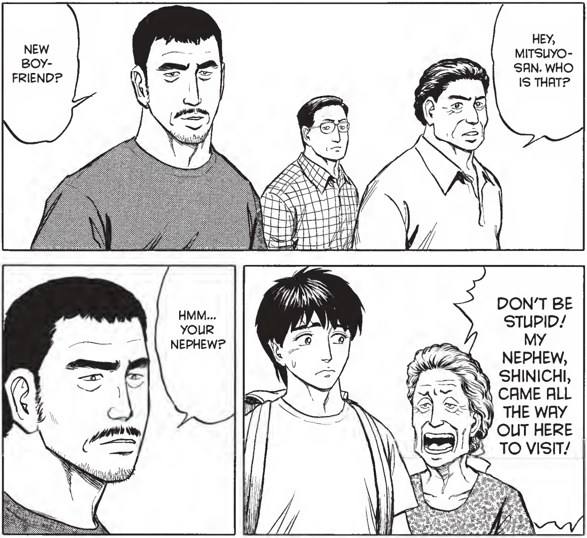

チチチ
CREAK
ガバッ

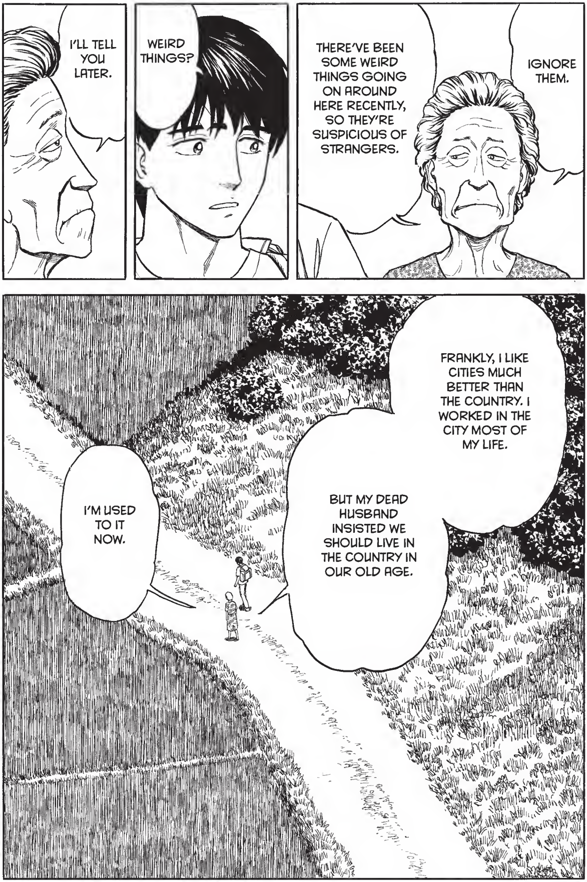

CHOP
CHOP CHOP
トトトト
トト
THANK YOU AGAIN. I WON'T FORGET...
ABOUT THAT, SHIN-CHAN...
YES?
I'M GOING INTO TOWN TO DO SOME SHOPPING TODAY, AND I COULD USE YOUR HELP.
IT'S ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS* EACH WAY, AND A FRAIL OLD LADY LIKE ME CAN ONLY CARRY SO MUCH.
UH...
SEEMS A FAIR REPAYMENT.
OR DID YOU HAVE OTHER PLANS?
NO...

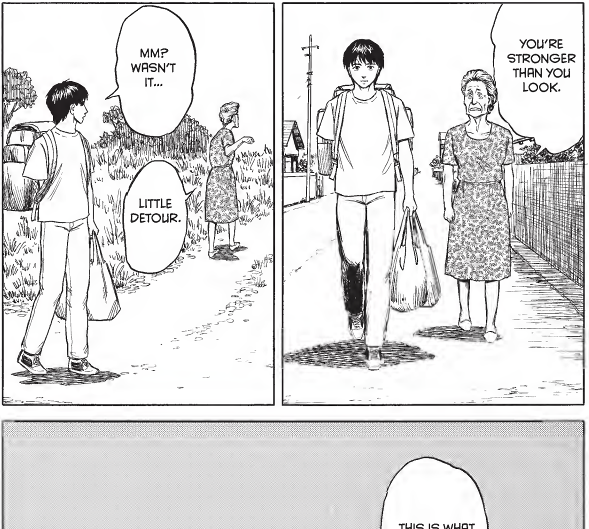
*APPROX 1.8 MILES

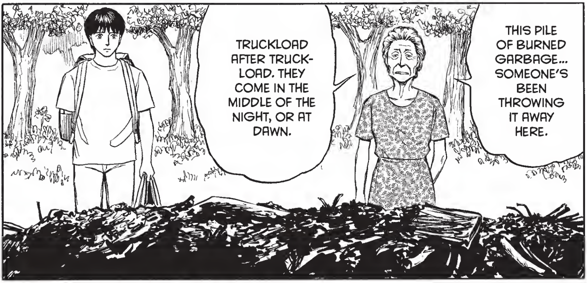

MM? IF YOU USED THIS, THEN...
WHAT?
NOTHING.

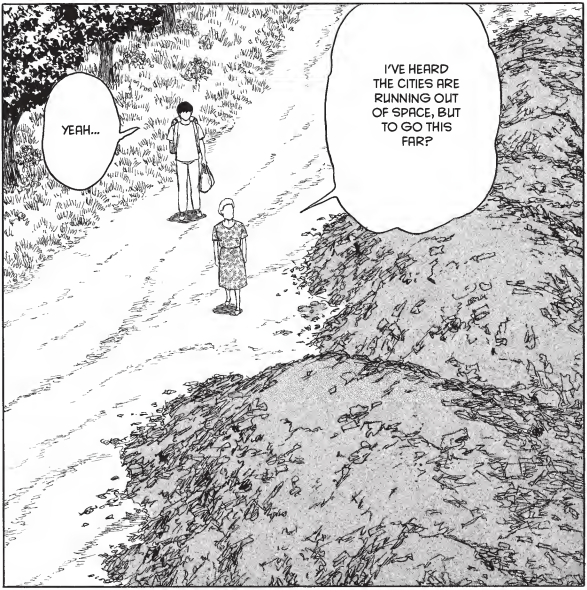

THIS SIDE.
?
........
HMM...
...WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

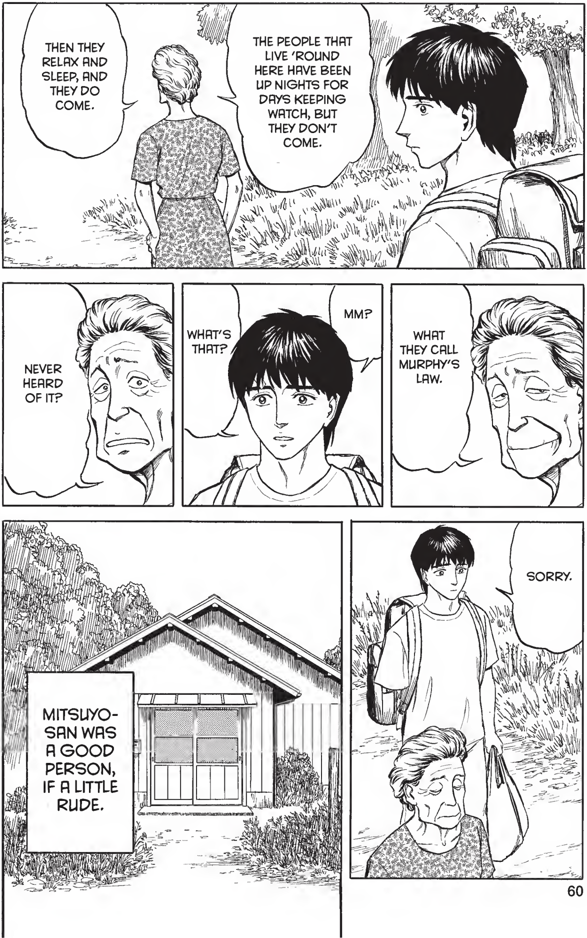

HEY, MITSUYO-SAN. WHO IS THAT?
NEW BOYFRIEND?
DON'T BE STUPID! MY NEPHEW, SHINICHI, CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO VISIT!
HMM... YOUR NEPHEW?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT!?
EEP!

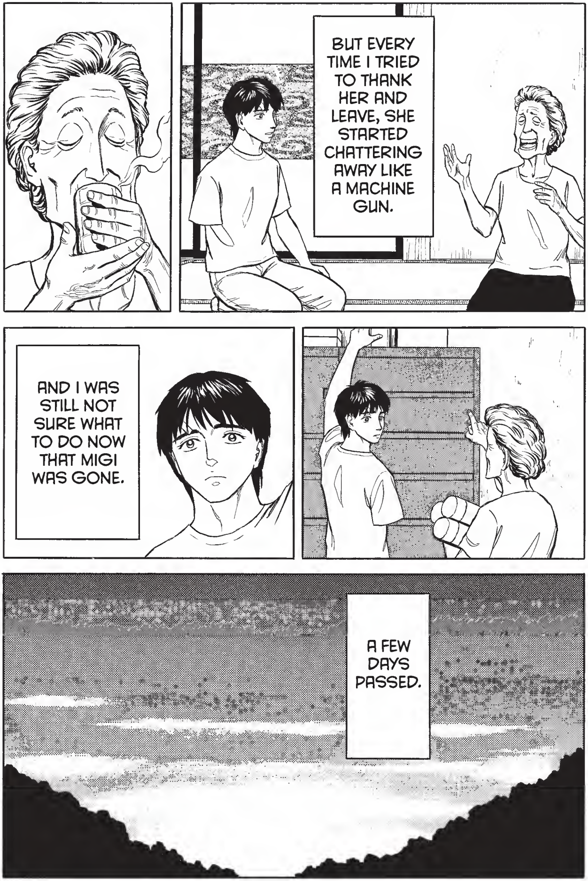

IGNORE THEM.
THERE'VE BEEN SOME WEIRD THINGS GOING ON AROUND HERE RECENTLY, SO THEY'RE SUSPICIOUS OF STRANGERS.
WEIRD THINGS?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER.
FRANKLY, I LIKE CITIES MUCH BETTER THAN THE COUNTRY. I WORKED IN THE CITY MOST OF MY LIFE.
BUT MY DEAD HUSBAND INSISTED WE SHOULD LIVE IN THE COUNTRY IN OUR OLD AGE.
I'M USED TO IT NOW.

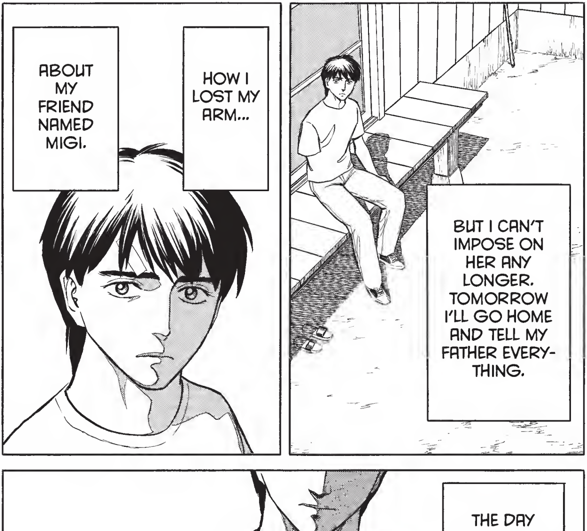

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK.
MM? WASN'T IT...
LITTLE DETOUR.
THIS IS WHAT I MEANT BY "STRANGE."

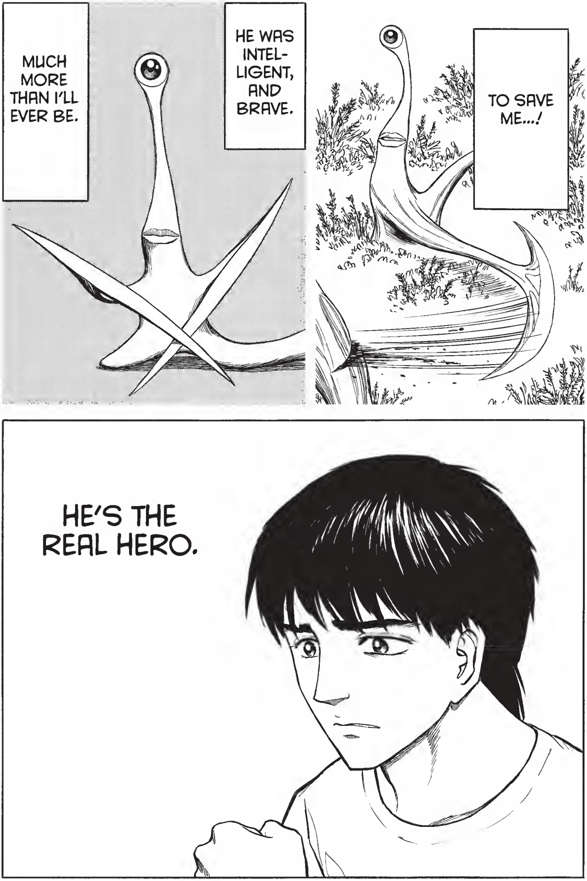

THIS PILE OF BURNED GARBAGE... SOMEONE'S BEEN THROWING IT AWAY HERE.
TRUCKLOAD AFTER TRUCKLOAD. THEY COME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, OR AT DAWN.

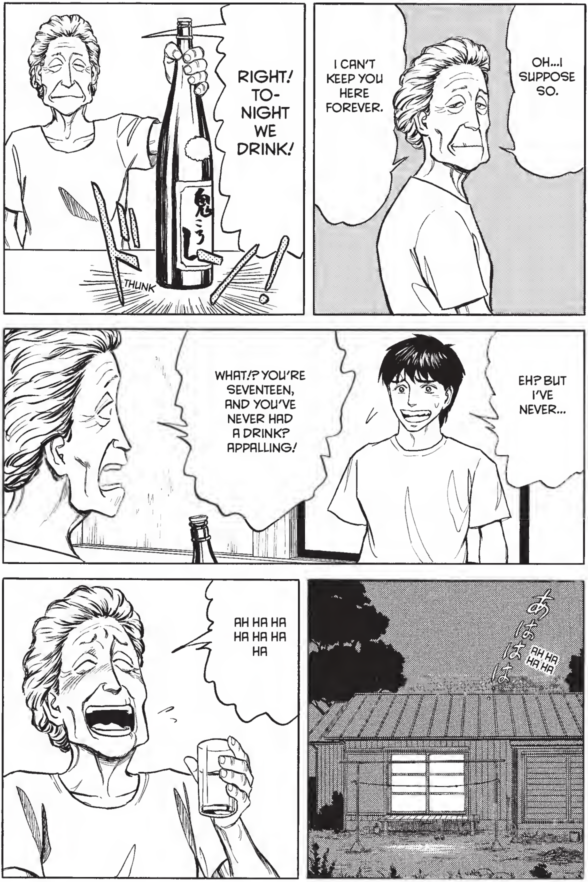

I'VE HEARD THE CITIES ARE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE, BUT TO GO THIS FAR?
YEAH...

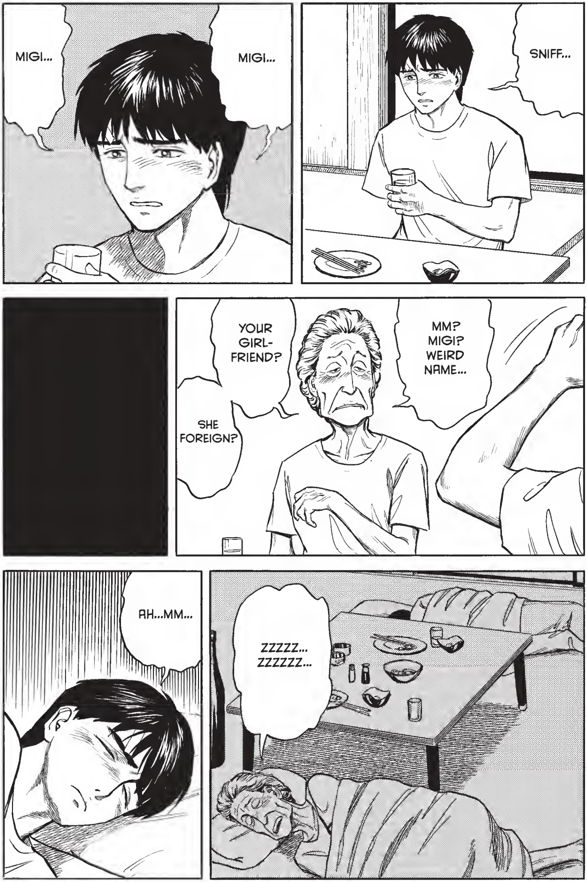

THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE 'ROUND HERE HAVE BEEN UP NIGHTS FOR DAYS KEEPING WATCH, BUT THEY DON'T COME.
THEN THEY RELAX AND SLEEP, AND THEY DO COME.
WHAT THEY CALL MURPHY'S LAW.
MM?
WHAT'S THAT?
NEVER HEARD OF IT?
SORRY.
MITSUYO-SAN WAS A GOOD PERSON, IF A LITTLE RUDE.

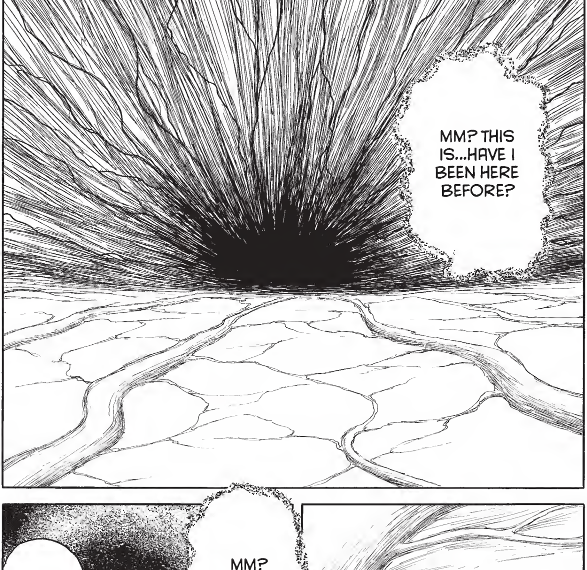

BUT EVERY TIME I TRIED TO THANK HER AND LEAVE, SHE STARTED CHATTERING AWAY LIKE A MACHINE GUN.
AND I WAS STILL NOT SURE WHAT TO DO NOW THAT MIGI WAS GONE.
A FEW DAYS PASSED.

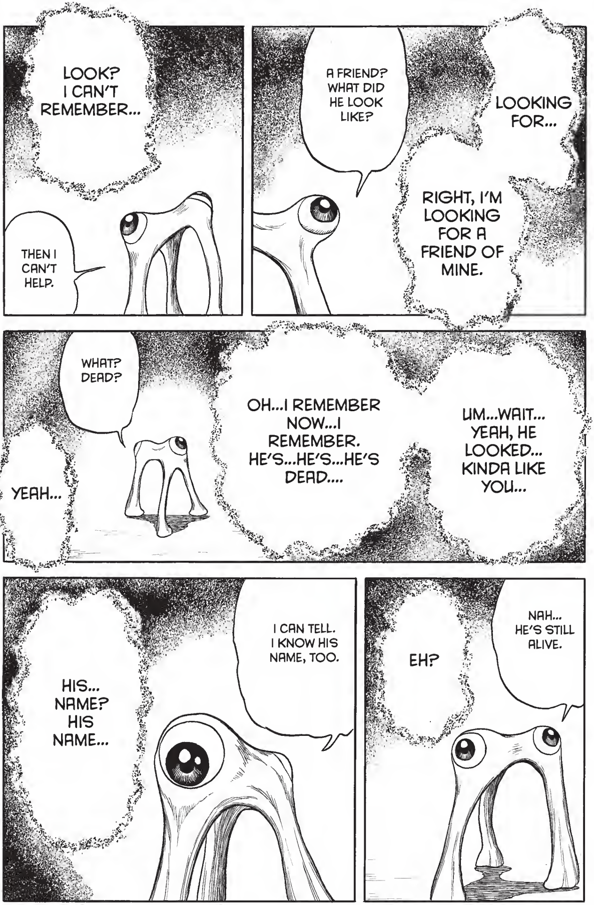

BUT I CAN'T IMPOSE ON HER ANY LONGER. TOMORROW I'LL GO HOME AND TELL MY FATHER EVERYTHING.
HOW I LOST MY ARM...
ABOUT MY FRIEND NAMED MIGI.
THE DAY MIGI FIRST SHOWED UP, EVERYTHING WE DID TOGETHER...
...AND WHAT A GREAT GUY HE WAS.

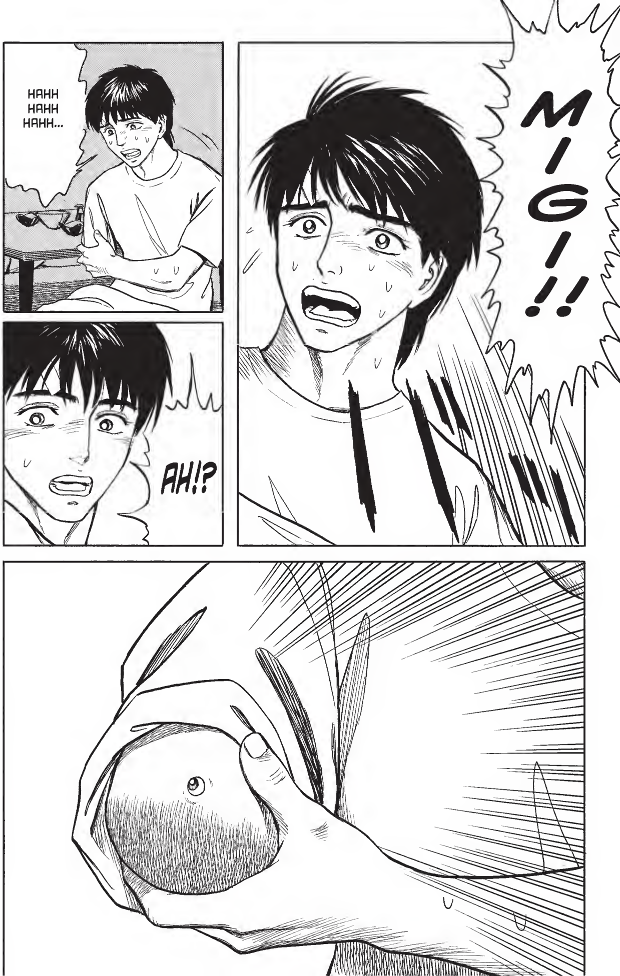

TO SAVE ME...!
HE WAS INTELLIGENT, AND BRAVE.
MUCH MORE THAN I'LL EVER BE.
HE'S THE REAL HERO.

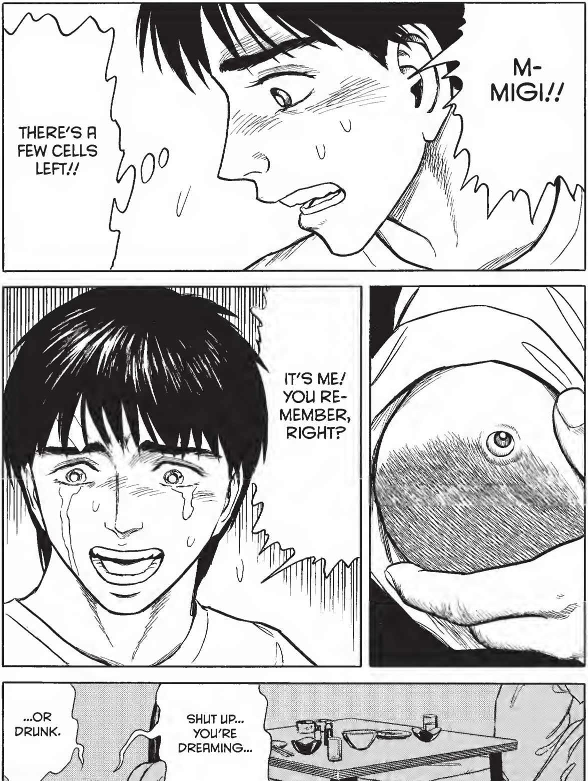

OH...I SUPPOSE SO.
I CAN'T KEEP YOU HERE FOREVER.
RIGHT! TONIGHT WE DRINK!
鬼ころし
THUNK
EH? BUT I'VE NEVER...
WHAT!? YOU'RE SEVENTEEN, AND YOU'VE NEVER HAD A DRINK? APPALLING!
あははは
AH HA HA HA
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA

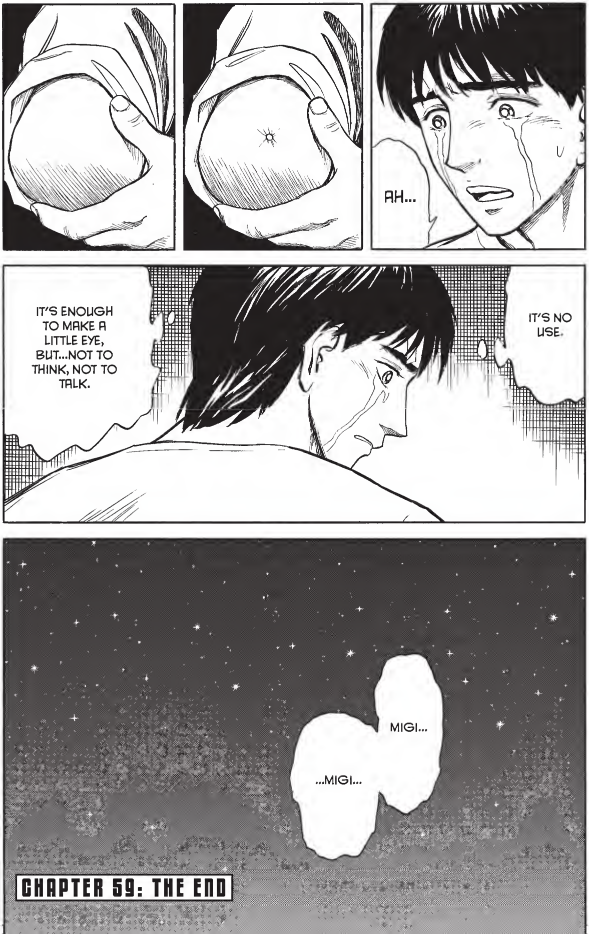

SNIFF...
MIGI...
MIGI...
MM? MIGI? WEIRD NAME...
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
SHE FOREIGN?
ZZZZZ... ZZZZZZ...
AH...MM...


MM? THIS IS...HAVE I BEEN HERE BEFORE?
WHAT IS THAT?
MM? YOU'RE...
WHAT? LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?


LOOKING FOR...
RIGHT, I'M LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OF MINE.
A FRIEND? WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
LOOK? I CAN'T REMEMBER...
THEN I CAN'T HELP.
UM...WAIT... YEAH, HE LOOKED... KINDA LIKE YOU...
OH...I REMEMBER NOW...I REMEMBER. HE'S...HE'S...HE'S DEAD....
WHAT? DEAD?
YEAH...
NAH... HE'S STILL ALIVE.
EH?
I CAN TELL. I KNOW HIS NAME, TOO.
HIS... NAME? HIS NAME...

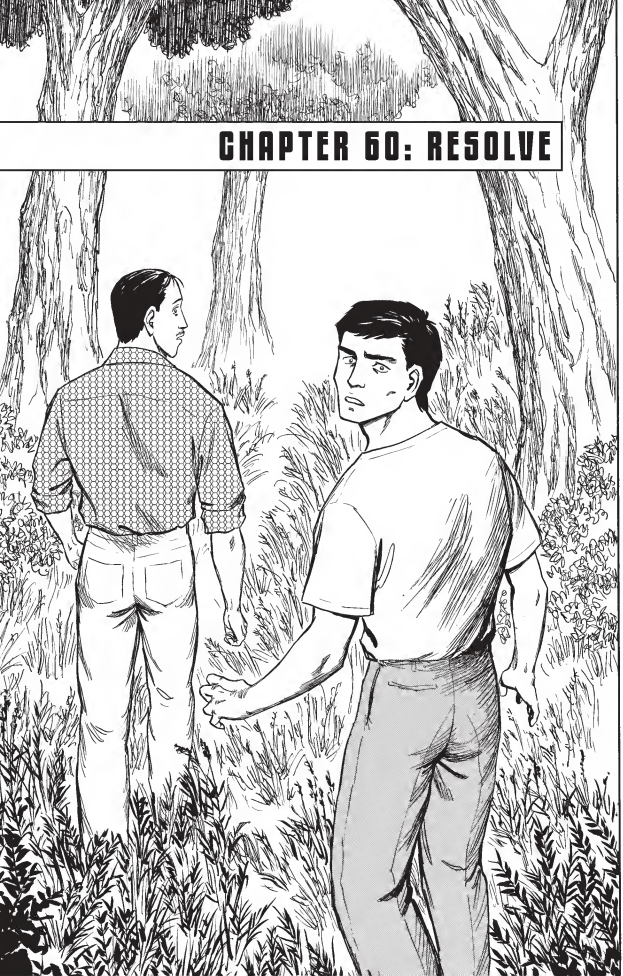

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH...
AH!?
MIGI!!


M-MIGI!!
THERE'S A FEW CELLS LEFT!!
IT'S ME! YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT?
SHUT UP... YOU'RE DREAMING...
...OR DRUNK.

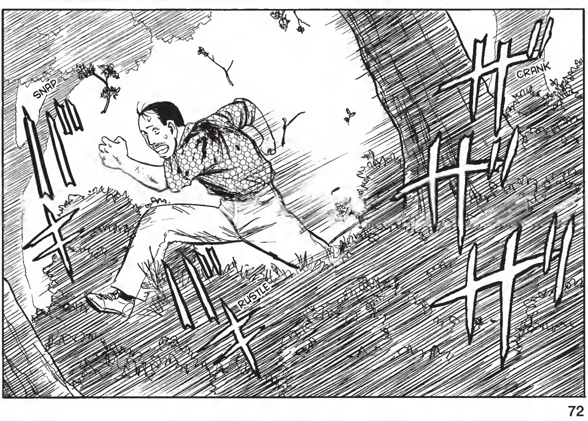

AH...
IT'S NO USE.
IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A LITTLE EYE, BUT...NOT TO THINK, NOT TO TALK.
MIGI...
...MIGI...

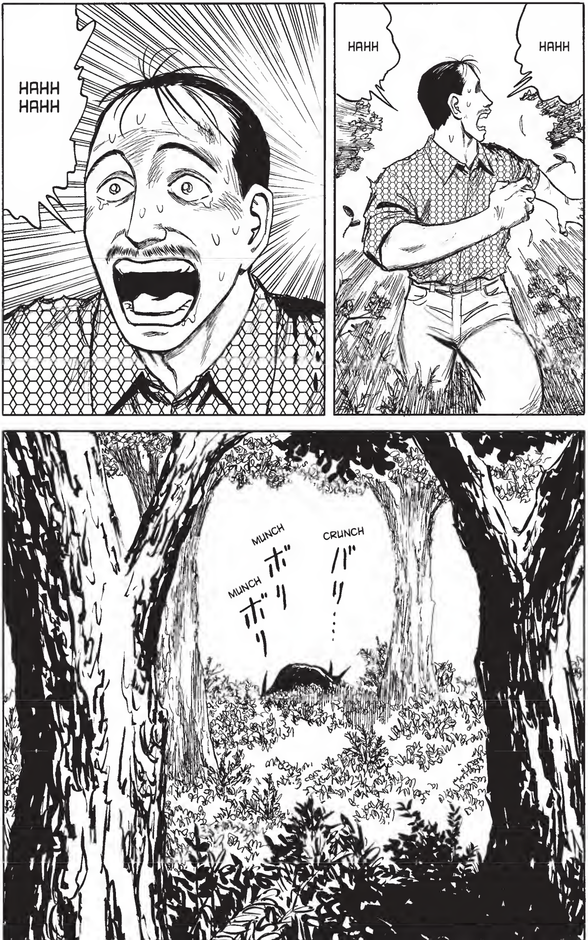
## CHAPTER 59: THE END

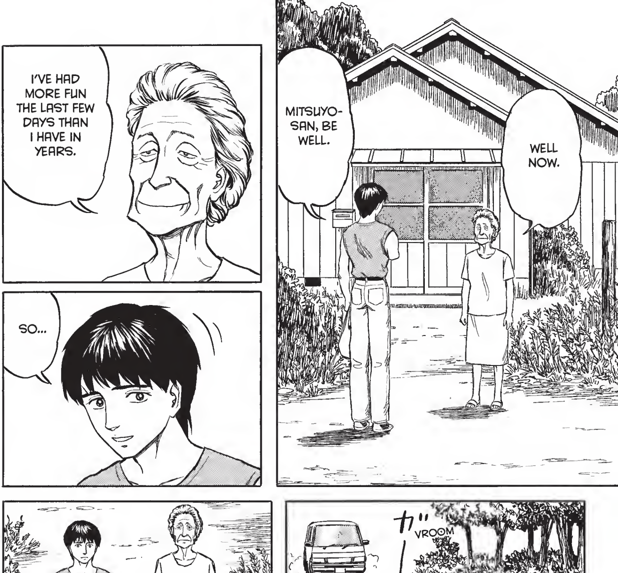
# CHAPTER 60: RESOLVE

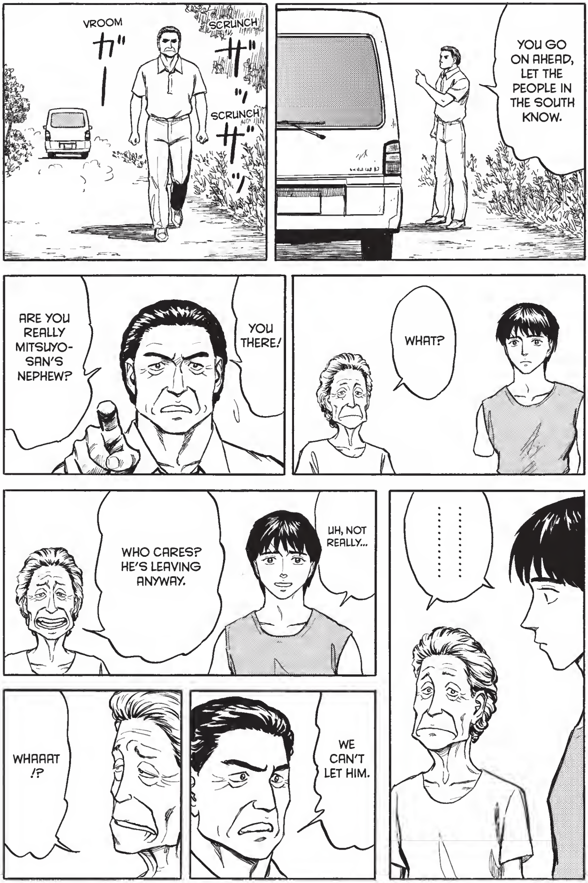


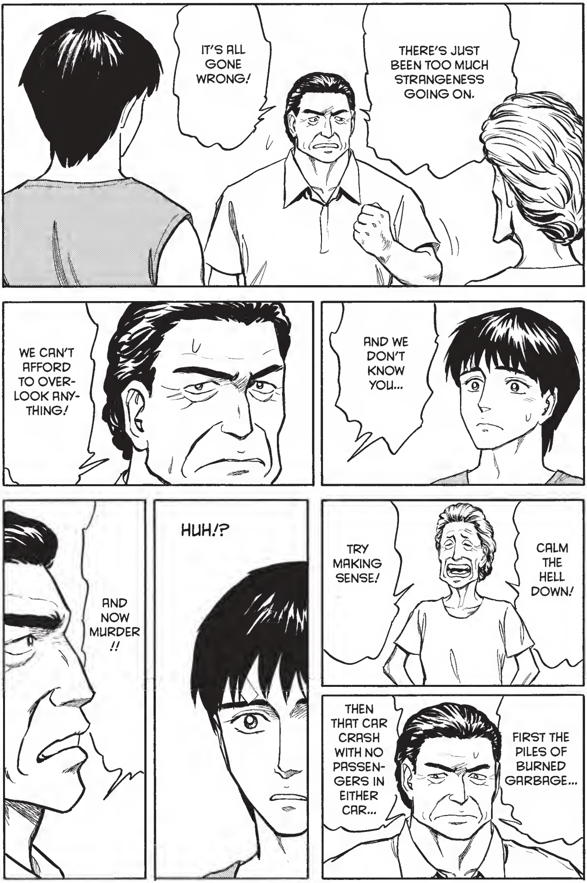
AUUUGGHHH!
うぎゃ〜〜〜〜っ!!

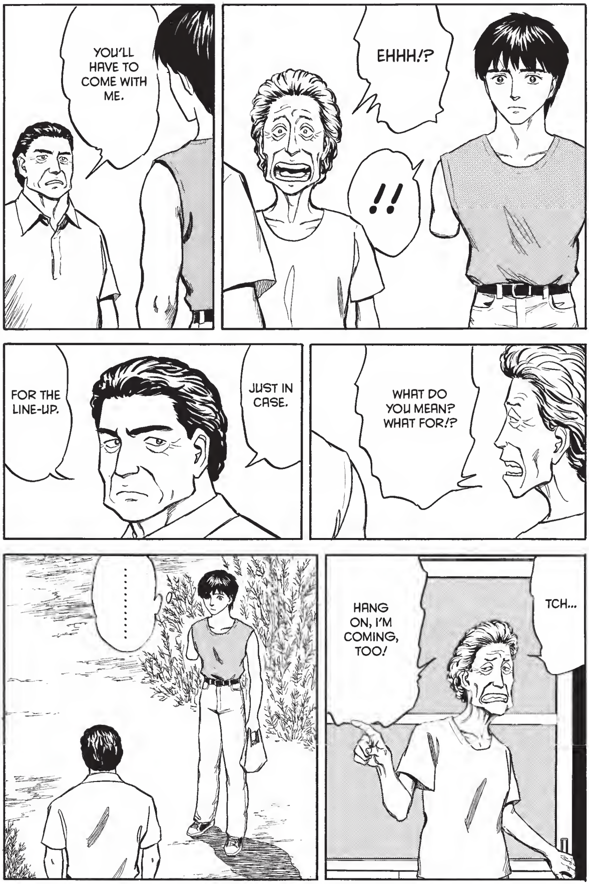

CRANK
ザザザ
SNAP
バキ
RUSTLE
バキ

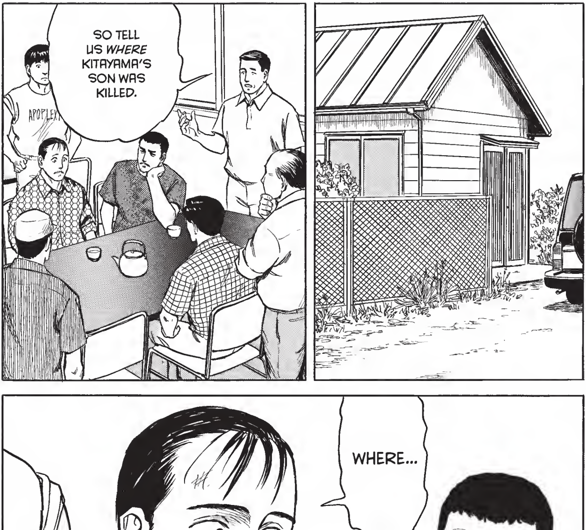

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH HAHH
CRUNCH
バリ…
MUNCH
ボリ
MUNCH
ボリ

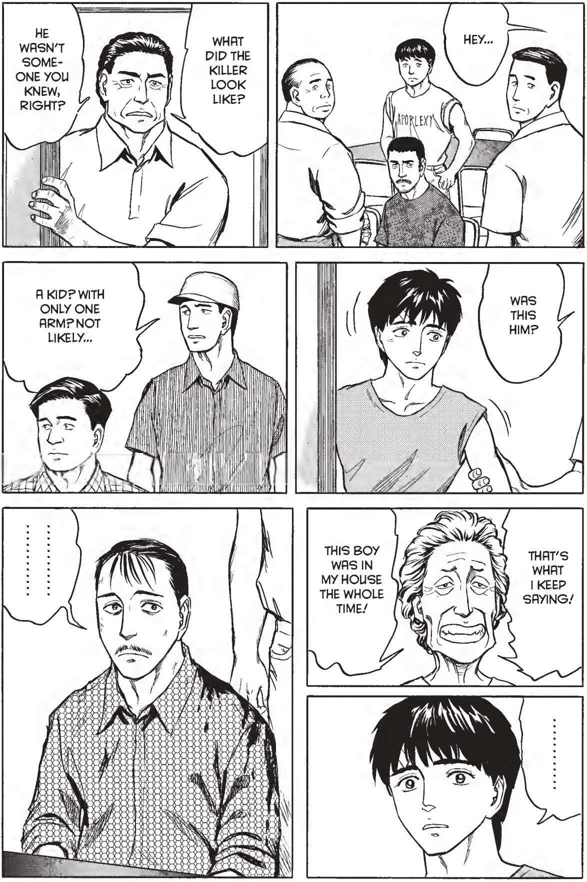

WELL NOW.
MITSUYO-SAN, BE WELL.
I'VE HAD MORE FUN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAN I HAVE IN YEARS.
SO...
ガー
VROOM
!
STOP!
!

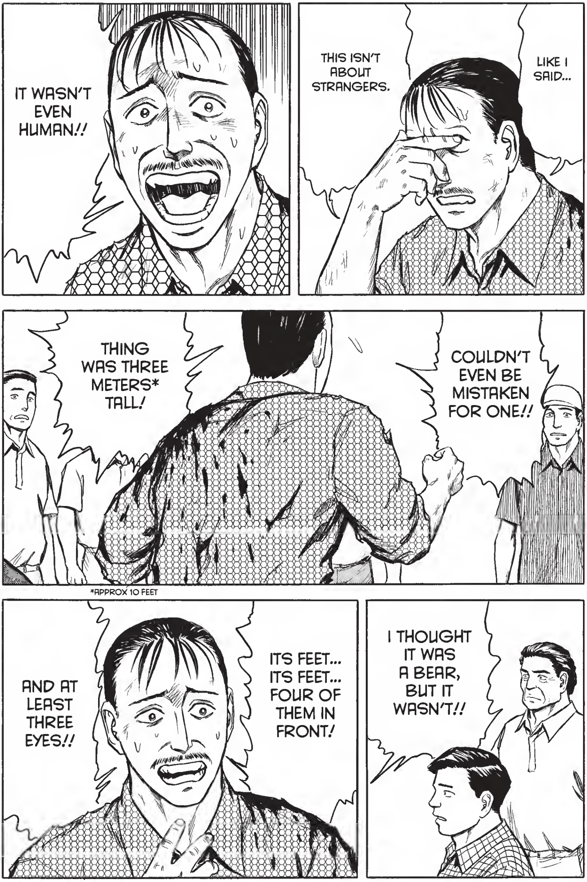

YOU GO ON AHEAD, LET THE PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH KNOW.
VROOM
ガー
SCRUNCH
ザッ
SCRUNCH
ザッ
YOU THERE!
ARE YOU REALLY MITSUYO-SAN'S NEPHEW?
WHAT?
UH, NOT REALLY...
WHO CARES? HE'S LEAVING ANYWAY.
……
WE CAN'T LET HIM.
WHAAAT!?


IT'S ALL GONE WRONG!
THERE'S JUST BEEN TOO MUCH STRANGENESS GOING ON.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO OVERLOOK ANYTHING!
AND WE DON'T KNOW YOU...
CALM THE HELL DOWN!
TRY MAKING SENSE!
FIRST THE PILES OF BURNED GARBAGE...
THEN THAT CAR CRASH WITH NO PASSENGERS IN EITHER CAR...
AND NOW MURDER!!
HUH!?

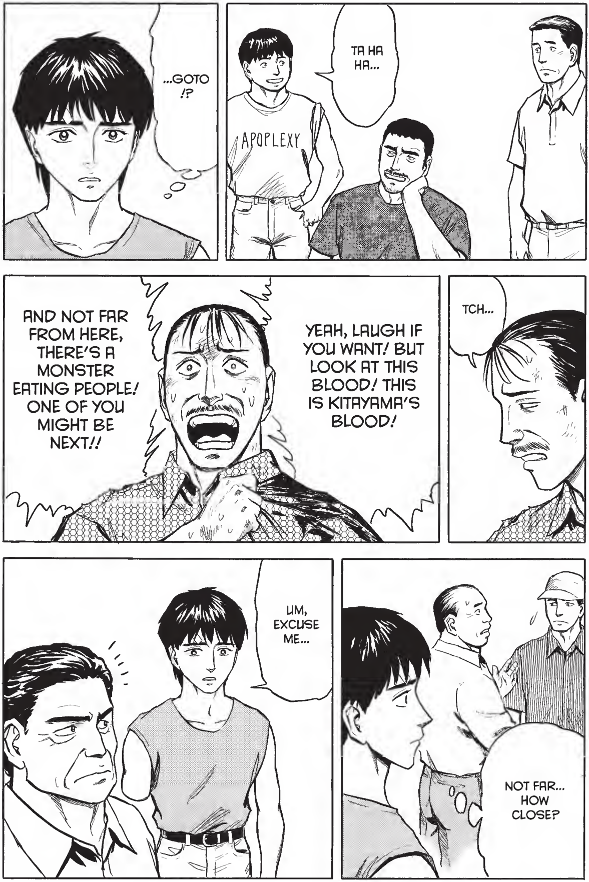

YOU'LL HAVE TO COME WITH ME.
EHHH!?
!!
FOR THE LINE-UP.
JUST IN CASE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT FOR!?
.........
HANG ON, I'M COMING, TOO!
TCH...

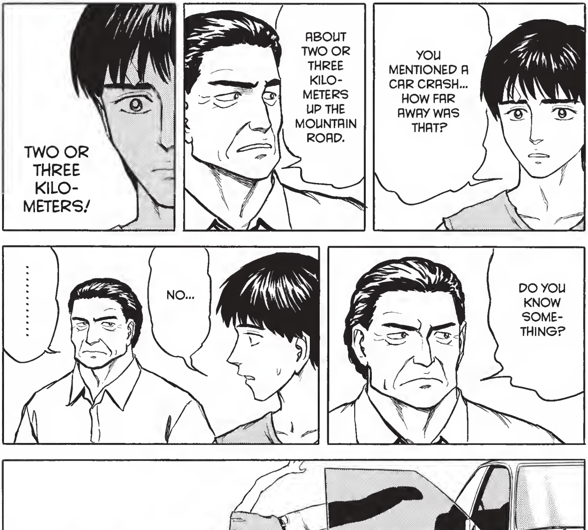

SO TELL US *WHERE* KITAYAMA'S SON WAS KILLED.
APOPLEX
WHERE...

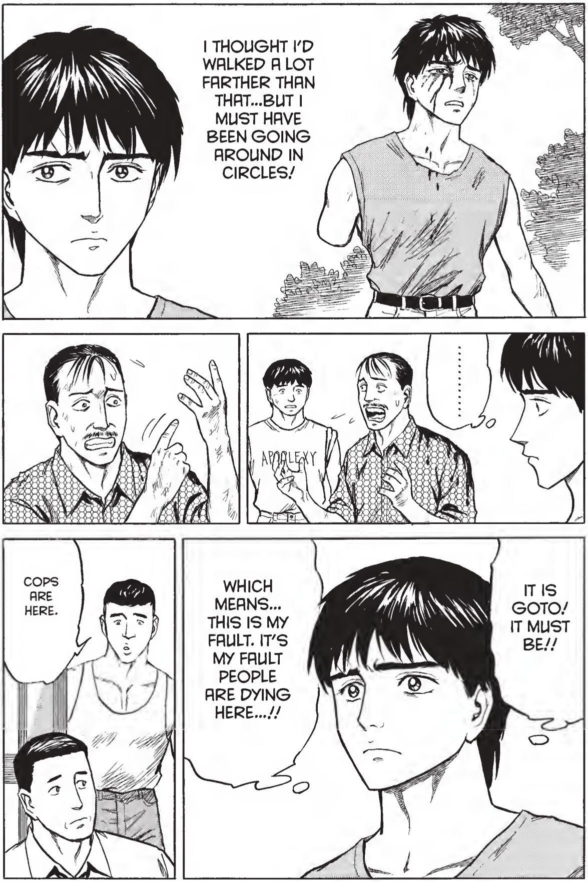

HEY...
APOPLEXY
WHAT DID THE KILLER LOOK LIKE?
HE WASN'T SOMEONE YOU KNEW, RIGHT?
WAS THIS HIM?
A KID? WITH ONLY ONE ARM? NOT LIKELY...
THAT'S WHAT I KEEP SAYING!
THIS BOY WAS IN MY HOUSE THE WHOLE TIME!
..........
..........

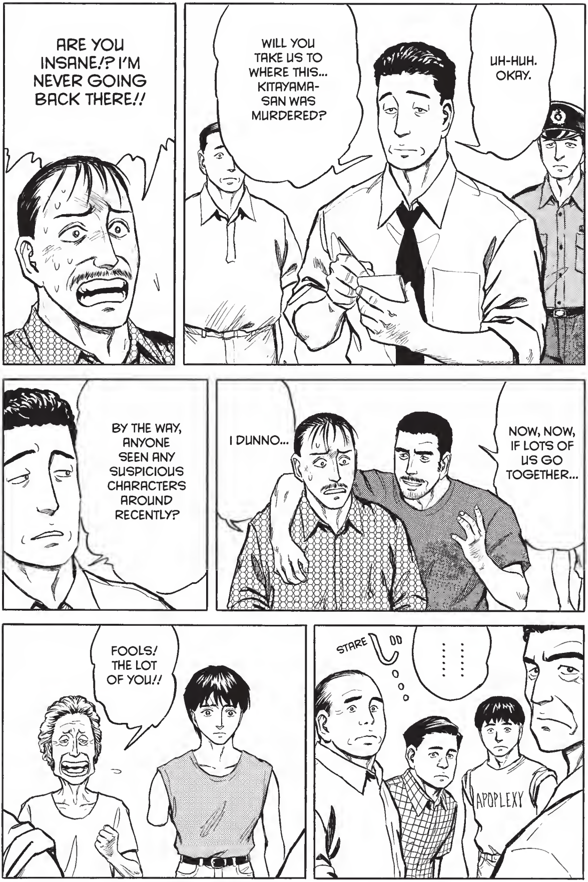

LIKE I SAID...
THIS ISN'T ABOUT STRANGERS.
IT WASN'T EVEN HUMAN!!
COULDN'T EVEN BE MISTAKEN FOR ONE!!
THING WAS THREE METERS* TALL!
I THOUGHT IT WAS A BEAR, BUT IT WASN'T!!
ITS FEET... ITS FEET... FOUR OF THEM IN FRONT!
AND AT LEAST THREE EYES!!

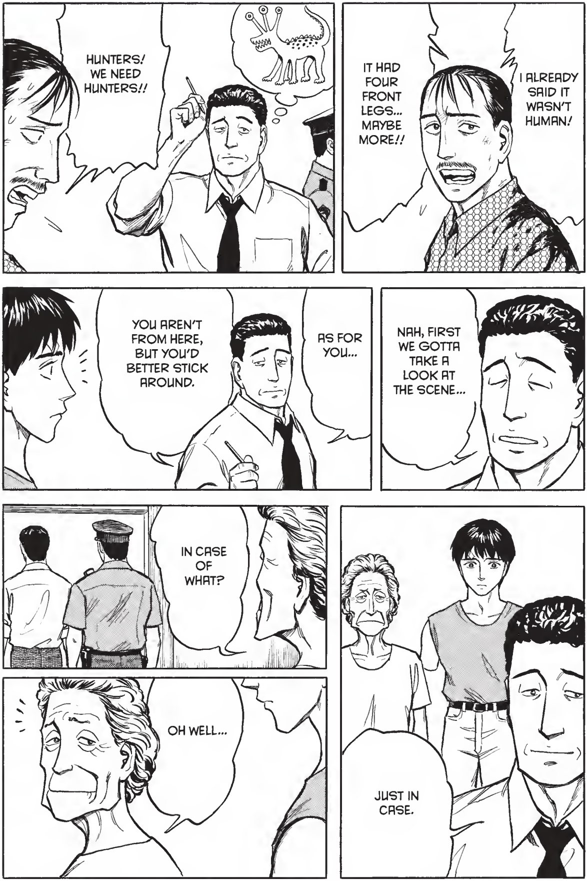
*APPROX 10 FEET

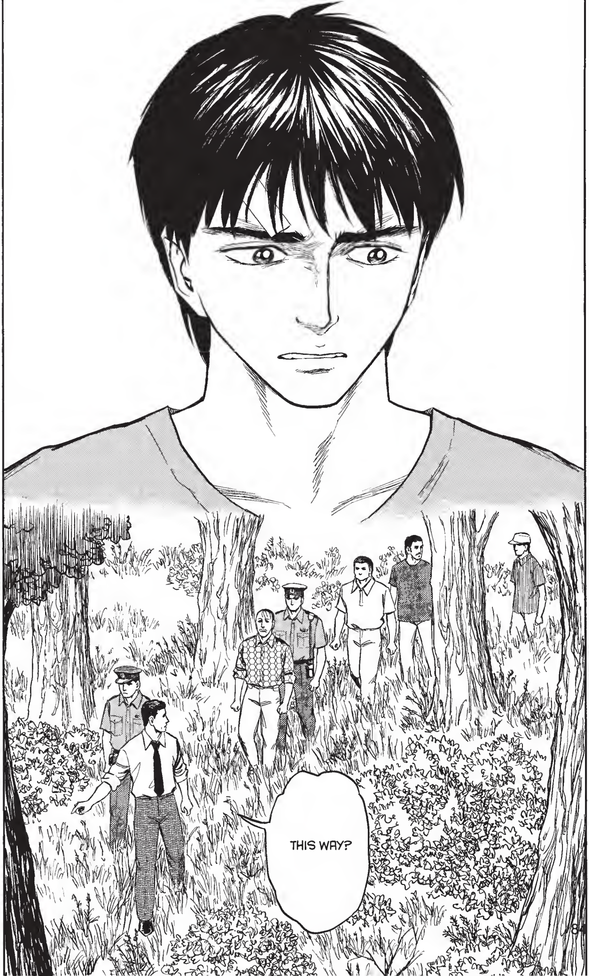

TA HA HA...
...GOTO !?
TCH...
YEAH, LAUGH IF YOU WANT! BUT LOOK AT THIS BLOOD! THIS IS KITAYAMA'S BLOOD!
AND NOT FAR FROM HERE, THERE'S A MONSTER EATING PEOPLE! ONE OF YOU MIGHT BE NEXT!!
NOT FAR... HOW CLOSE?
UM, EXCUSE ME...

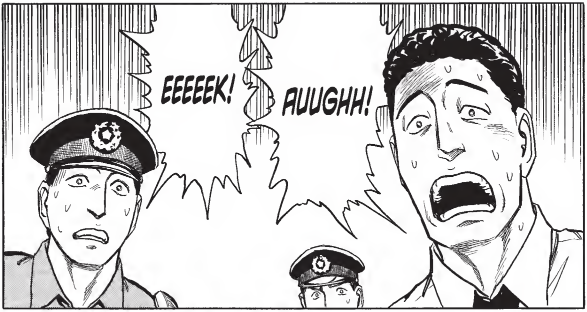

YOU MENTIONED A CAR CRASH... HOW FAR AWAY WAS THAT?
ABOUT TWO OR THREE KILOMETERS UP THE MOUNTAIN ROAD.
TWO OR THREE KILOMETERS!
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
NO...
..........

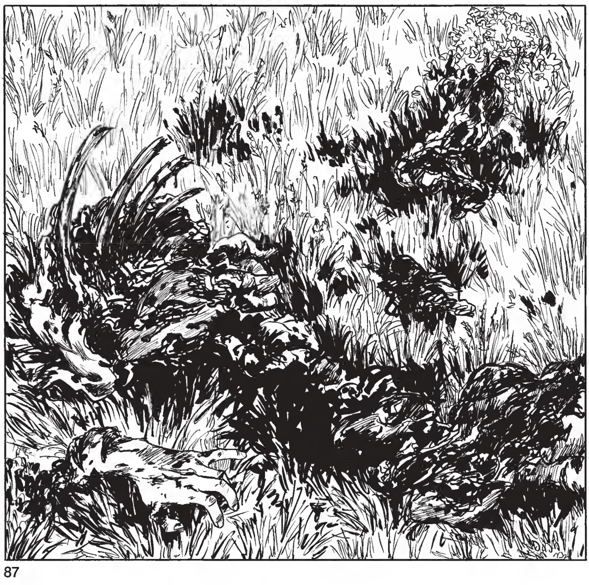

I THOUGHT I'D WALKED A LOT FARTHER THAN THAT...BUT I MUST HAVE BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES!
......
IT IS GOTO! IT MUST BE!!
WHICH MEANS... THIS IS MY FAULT. IT'S MY FAULT PEOPLE ARE DYING HERE...!!
COPS ARE HERE.

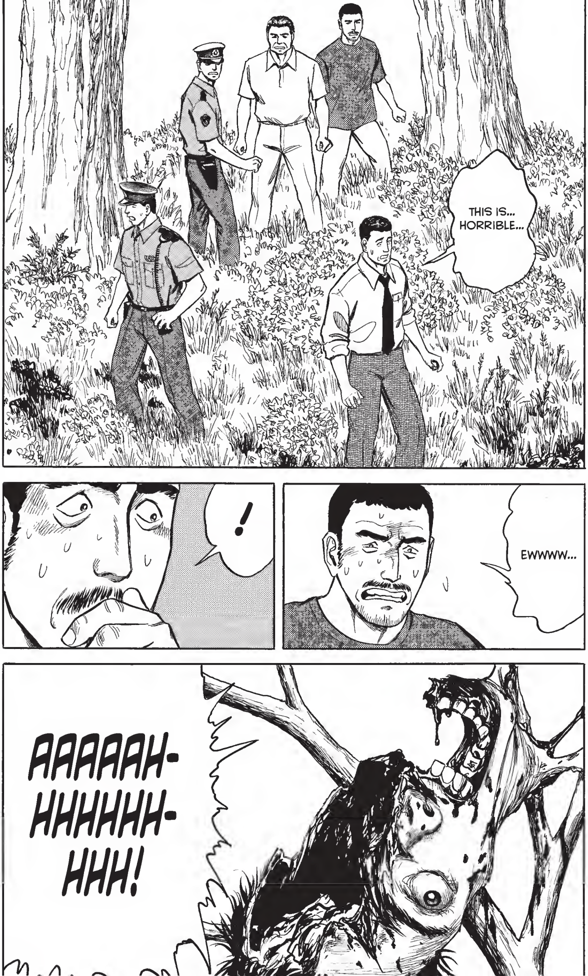

UH-HUH. OKAY.
WILL YOU TAKE US TO WHERE THIS... KITAYAMA-SAN WAS MURDERED?
ARE YOU INSANE!? I'M NEVER GOING BACK THERE!!
NOW, NOW, IF LOTS OF US GO TOGETHER...
I DUNNO...
BY THE WAY, ANYONE SEEN ANY SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS AROUND RECENTLY?
STARE
OD
......
......
FOOLS! THE LOT OF YOU!!
APOPLEXY

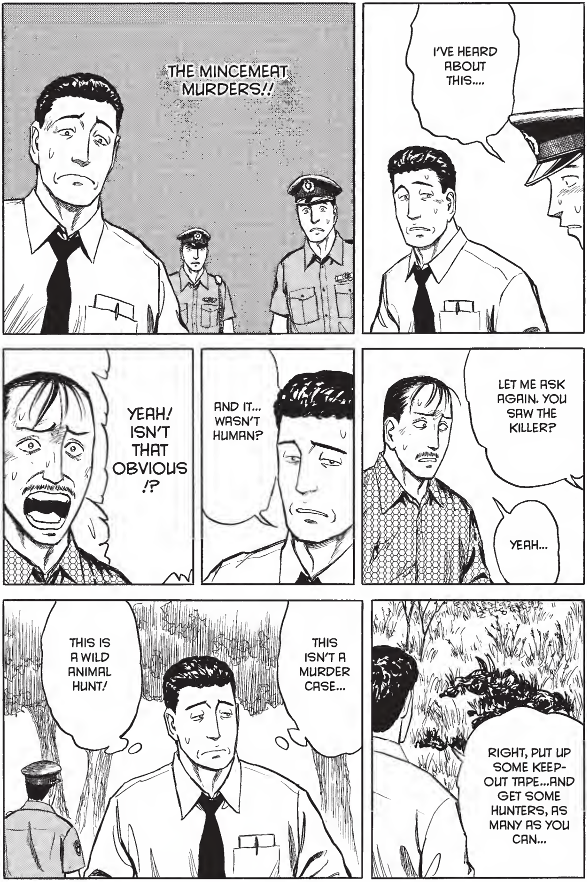

I ALREADY SAID IT WASN'T HUMAN!
IT HAD FOUR FRONT LEGS... MAYBE MORE!!
HUNTERS! WE NEED HUNTERS!!
NAH, FIRST WE GOTTA TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCENE...
AS FOR YOU...
YOU AREN'T FROM HERE, BUT YOU'D BETTER STICK AROUND.
JUST IN CASE.
IN CASE OF WHAT?
OH WELL...

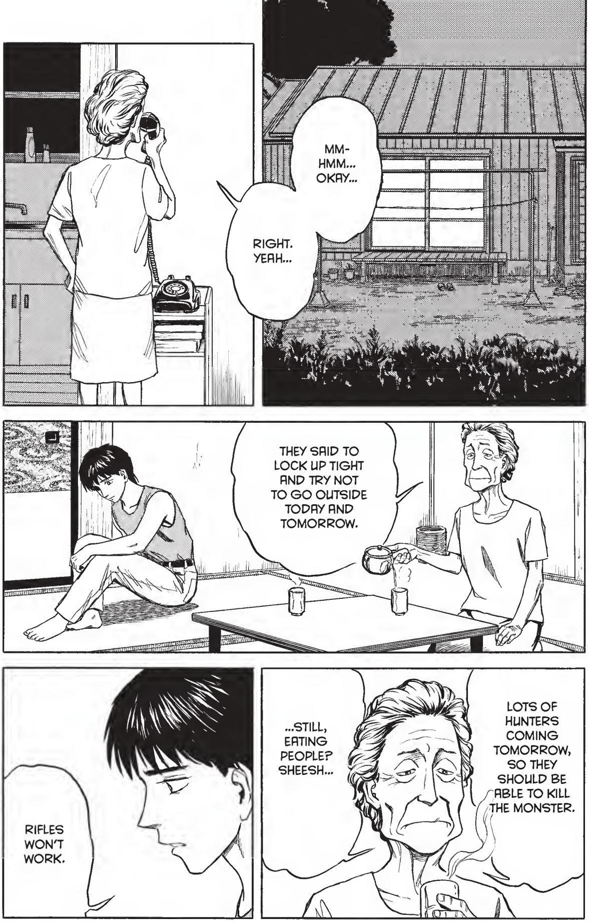

THIS WAY?

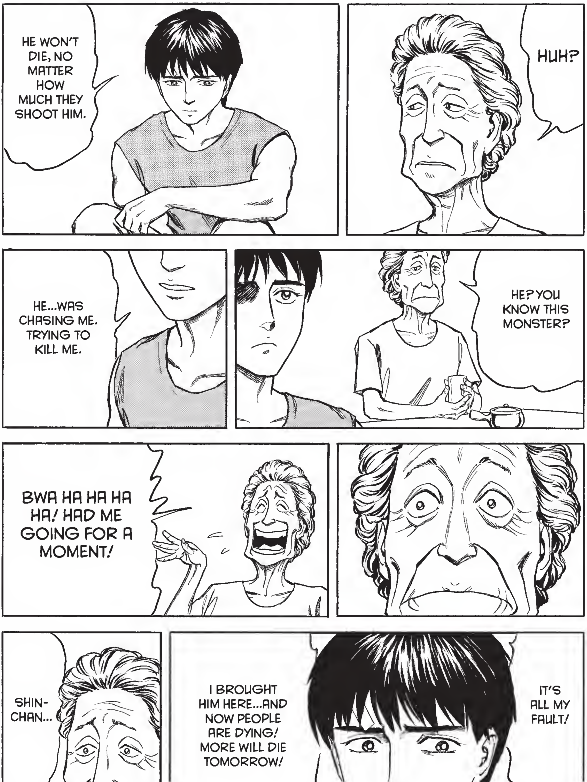

AUUGHH!
EEEEEK!

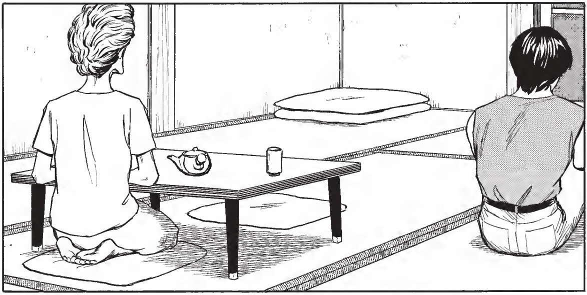


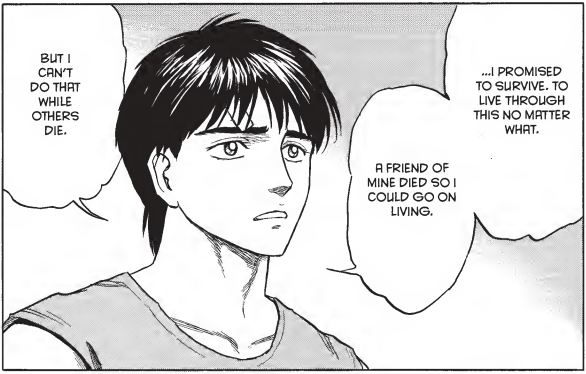

THIS IS... HORRIBLE...
!
EWWWW...
AAAAAH-HHHHHH-HHH!

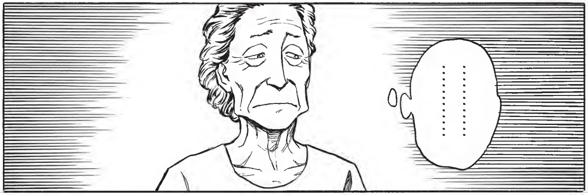

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS....
THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS!!
LET ME ASK AGAIN. YOU SAW THE KILLER?
YEAH...
AND IT... WASN'T HUMAN?
YEAH! ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS!?
RIGHT, PUT UP SOME KEEP-OUT TAPE...AND GET SOME HUNTERS, AS MANY AS YOU CAN...
THIS ISN'T A MURDER CASE...
THIS IS A WILD ANIMAL HUNT!

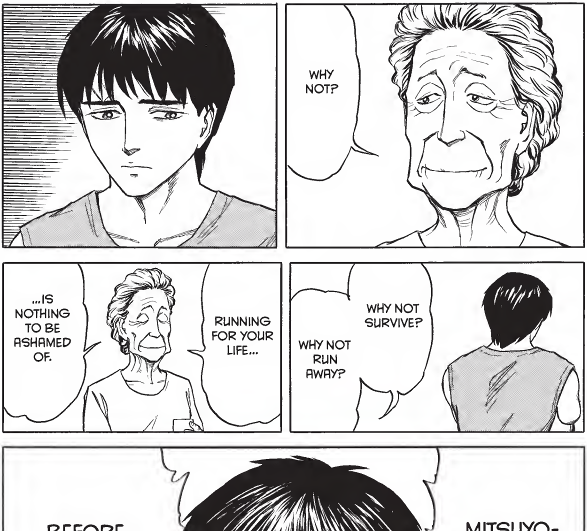

MM-HMM... OKAY...
RIGHT. YEAH...
THEY SAID TO LOCK UP TIGHT AND TRY NOT TO GO OUTSIDE TODAY AND TOMORROW.
LOTS OF HUNTERS COMING TOMORROW, SO THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO KILL THE MONSTER.
...STILL, EATING PEOPLE? SHEESH...
RIFLES WON'T WORK.

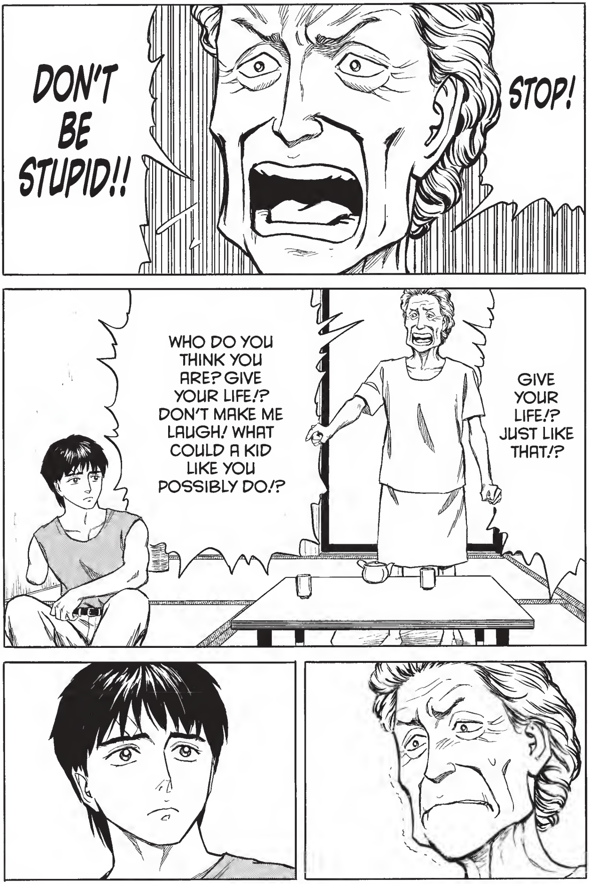

HE WON'T DIE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY SHOOT HIM.
HUH?
HE...WAS CHASING ME. TRYING TO KILL ME.
HE? YOU KNOW THIS MONSTER?
BWA HA HA HA HA! HAD ME GOING FOR A MOMENT!
SHIN-CHAN...
I BROUGHT HIM HERE...AND NOW PEOPLE ARE DYING! MORE WILL DIE TOMORROW!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

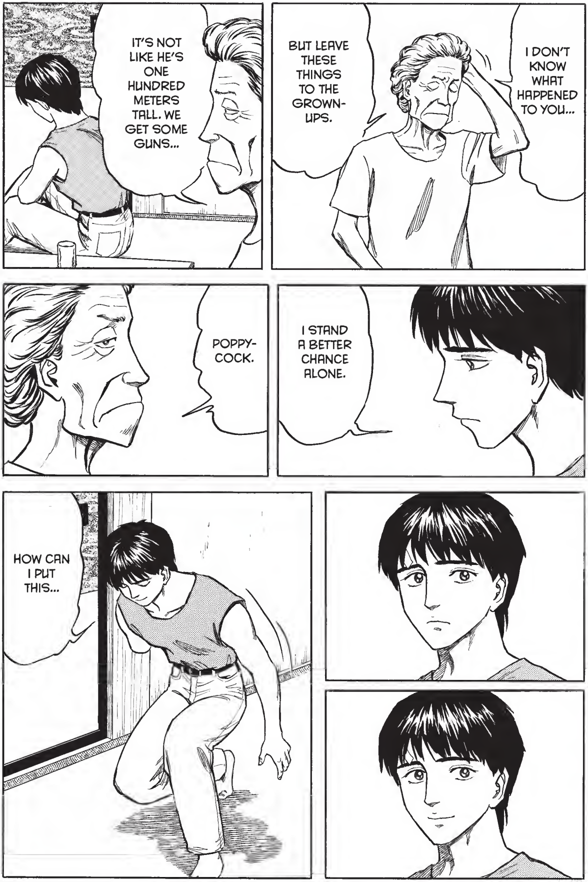


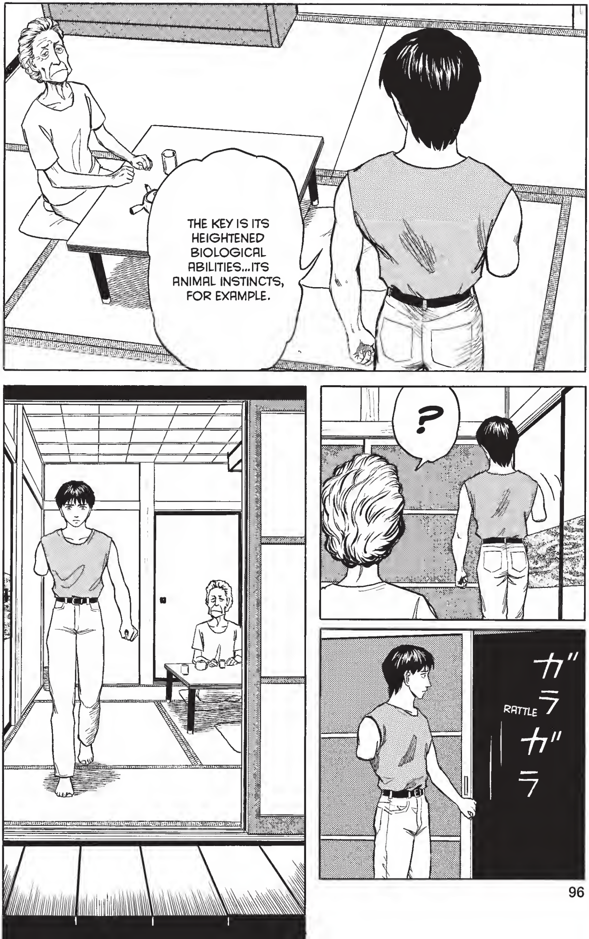

...I PROMISED TO SURVIVE. TO LIVE THROUGH THIS NO MATTER WHAT.
A FRIEND OF MINE DIED SO I COULD GO ON LIVING.
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT WHILE OTHERS DIE.

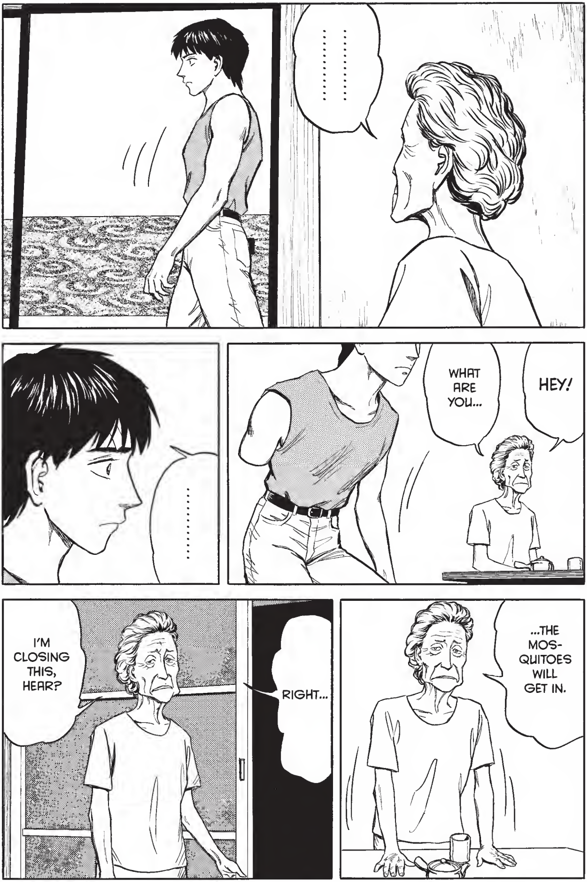

............

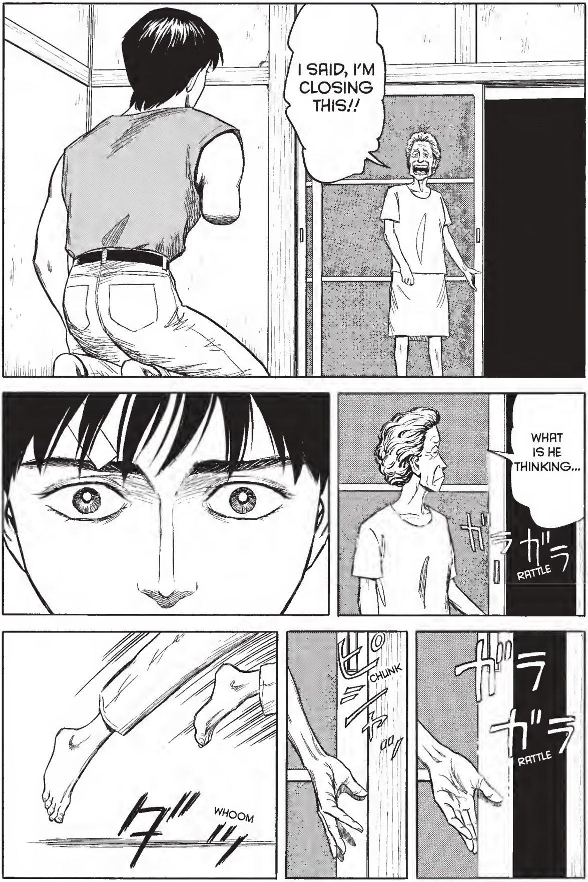

WHY NOT?
WHY NOT SURVIVE?
WHY NOT RUN AWAY?
RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE...
...IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
MITSUYO-SAN, THERE'S STILL SO MUCH I COULD DO!
BEFORE ALL THOSE PEOPLE GO UP AGAINST THAT MONSTER, I SHOULD GIVE MY LIFE...

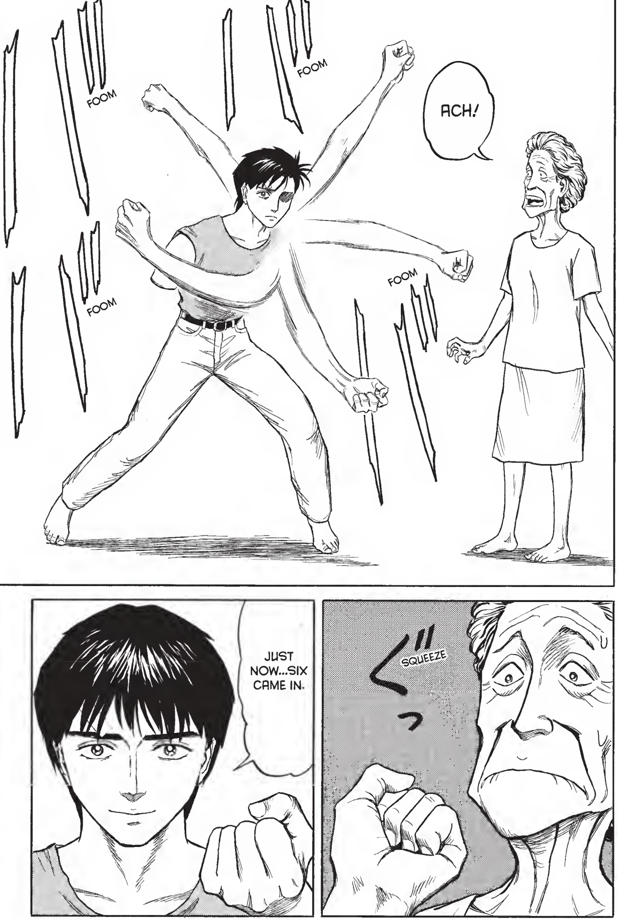

STOP!
DON'T BE STUPID!!
GIVE YOUR LIFE!? JUST LIKE THAT!?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? GIVE YOUR LIFE!? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! WHAT COULD A KID LIKE YOU POSSIBLY DO!?

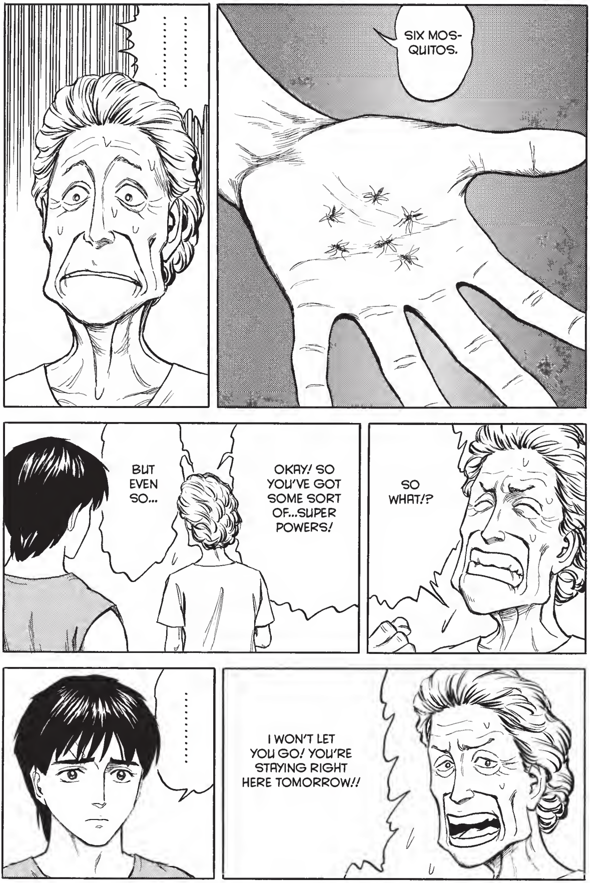

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...
BUT LEAVE THESE THINGS TO THE GROWN-UPS.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ONE HUNDRED METERS TALL. WE GET SOME GUNS...
I STAND A BETTER CHANCE ALONE.
POPPY-COCK.
HOW CAN I PUT THIS...

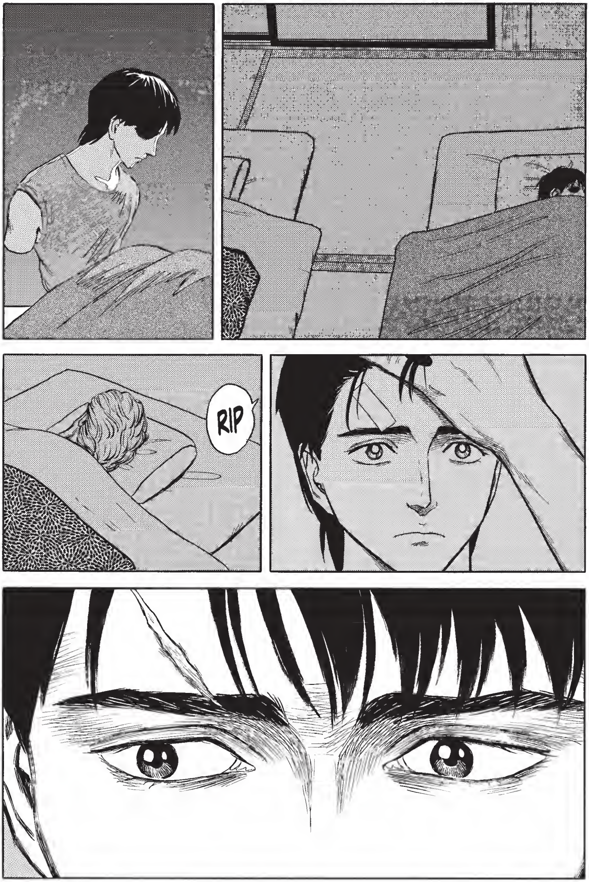

THE KEY IS ITS HEIGHTENED BIOLOGICAL ABILITIES...ITS ANIMAL INSTINCTS, FOR EXAMPLE.
?
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ

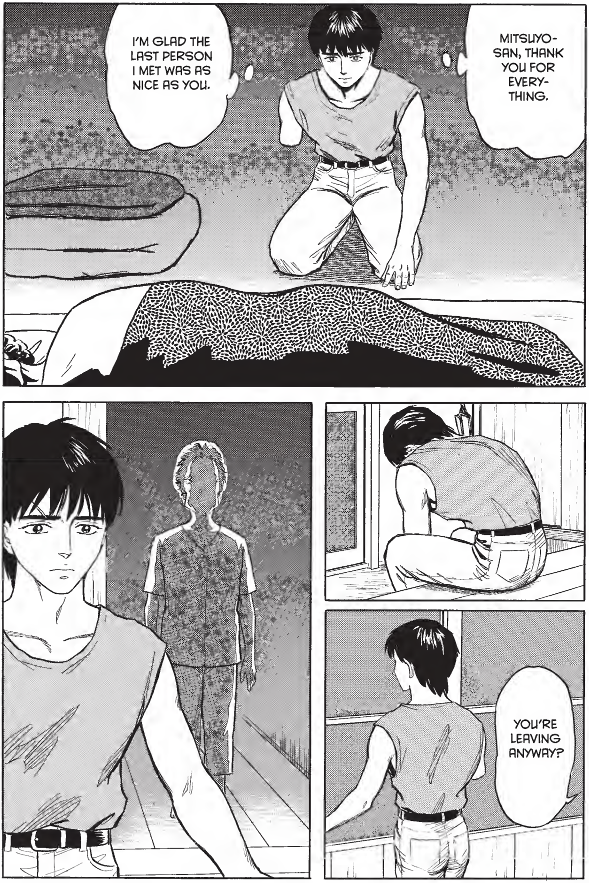

......
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU...
......
...THE MOSQUITOES WILL GET IN.
I'M CLOSING THIS, HEAR?
RIGHT...

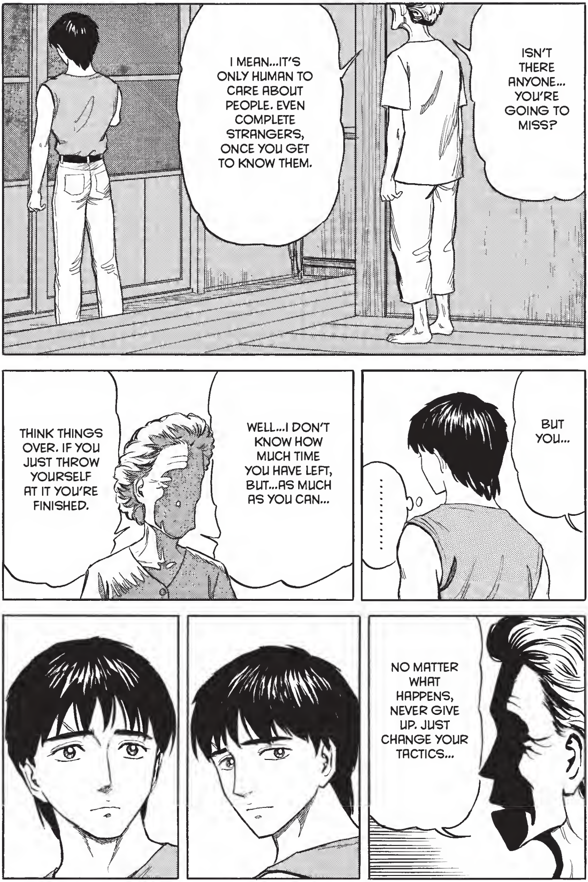

I SAID, I'M CLOSING THIS!!
WHAT IS HE THINKING...
ガラ ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
ガラ
RATTLE
ピシャッ
CHUNK
ダッ
WHOOM

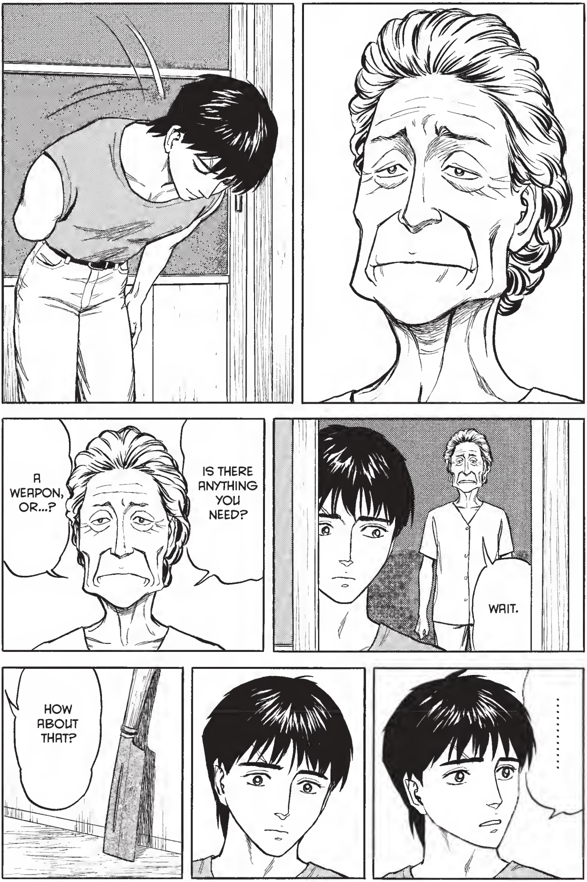

FOOM
FOOM
FOOM
FOOM
ACH!
JUST NOW...SIX CAME IN.
ぐっ
SQUEEZE

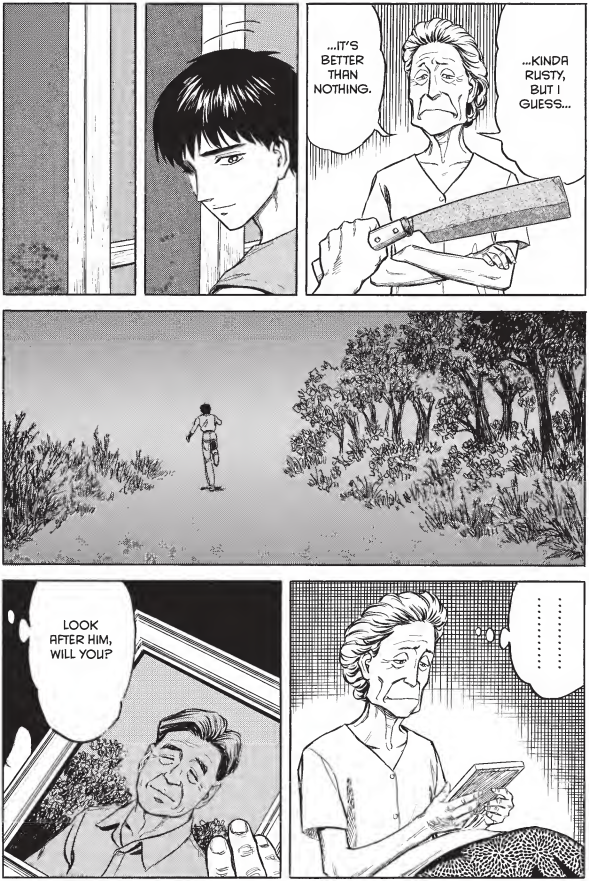

SIX MOS-QUITOS.
......
SO WHAT!?
OKAY! SO YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF...SUPER POWERS!
BUT EVEN SO...
I WON'T LET YOU GO! YOU'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE TOMORROW!!
......

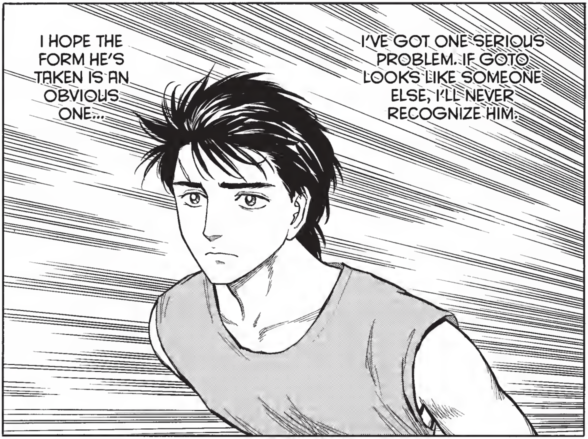

RIP

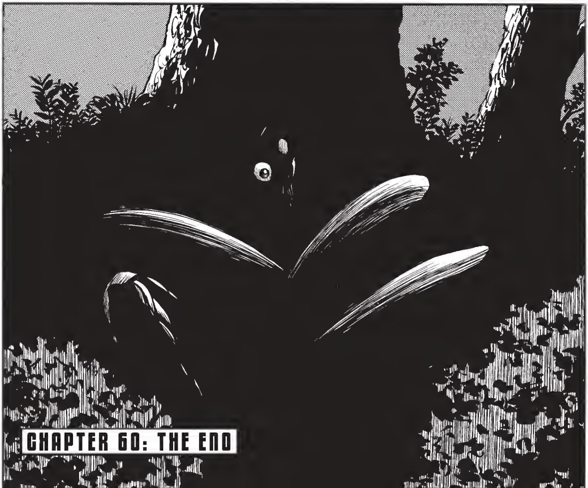

MITSUYO-SAN, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
I'M GLAD THE LAST PERSON I MET WAS AS NICE AS YOU.
YOU'RE LEAVING ANYWAY?


ISN'T THERE ANYONE... YOU'RE GOING TO MISS?
I MEAN...IT'S ONLY HUMAN TO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. EVEN COMPLETE STRANGERS, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM.
BUT YOU...
..........
WELL...I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME YOU HAVE LEFT, BUT...AS MUCH AS YOU CAN...
THINK THINGS OVER. IF YOU JUST THROW YOURSELF AT IT YOU'RE FINISHED.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NEVER GIVE UP. JUST CHANGE YOUR TACTICS...


WAIT.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?
A WEAPON, OR...?
..........
HOW ABOUT THAT?

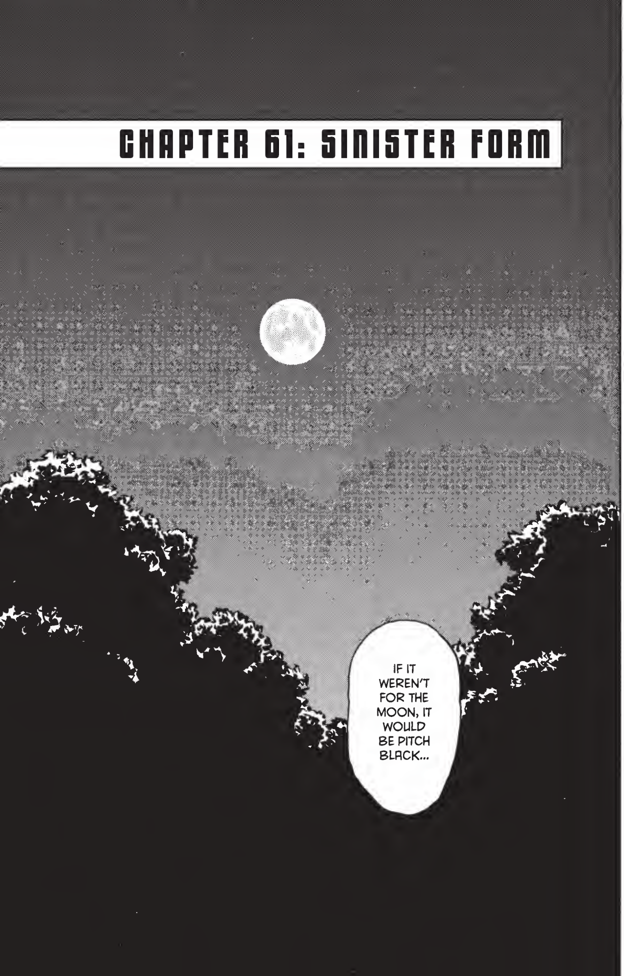

...KINDA RUSTY, BUT I GUESS...
...IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
..........
LOOK AFTER HIM, WILL YOU?

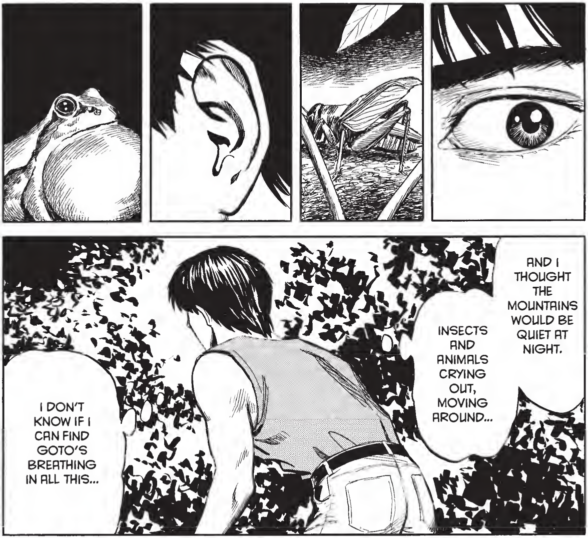

I'VE GOT ONE SERIOUS PROBLEM. IF GOTO LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE, I'LL NEVER RECOGNIZE HIM.
I HOPE THE FORM HE'S TAKEN IS AN OBVIOUS ONE...

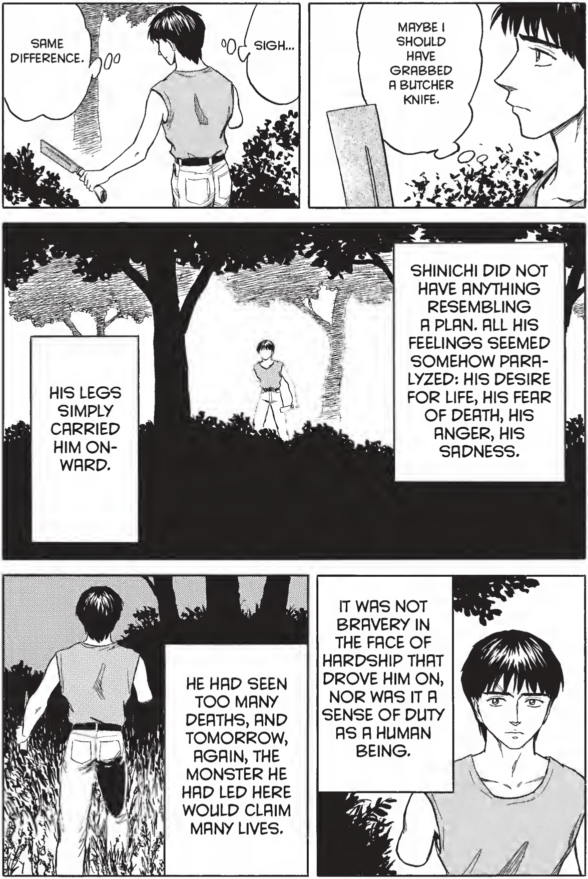


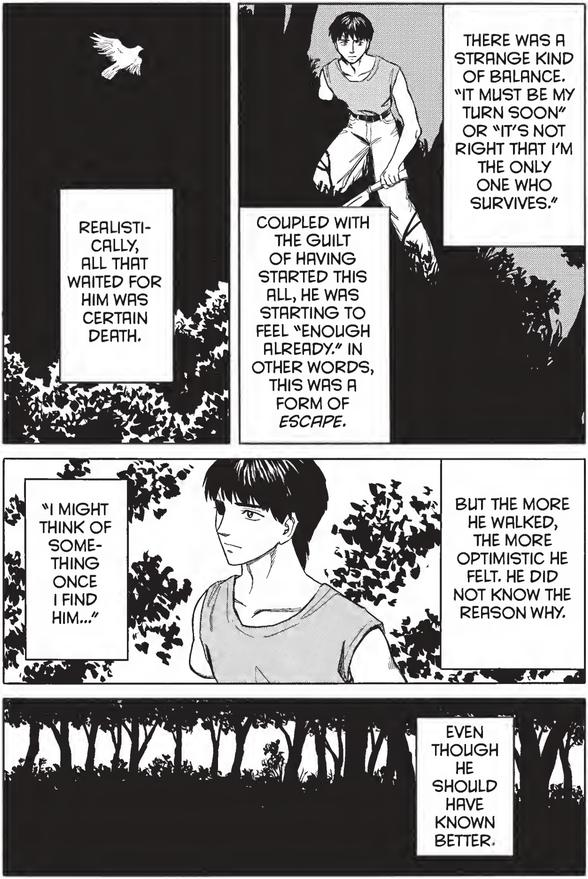
## CHAPTER 60: THE END

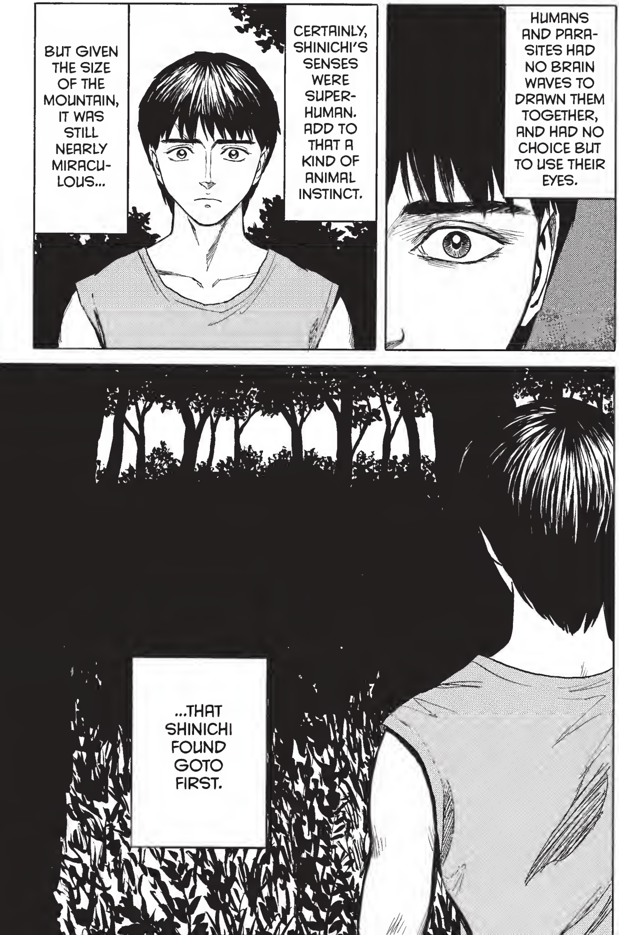
# CHAPTER 61: SINISTER FORM

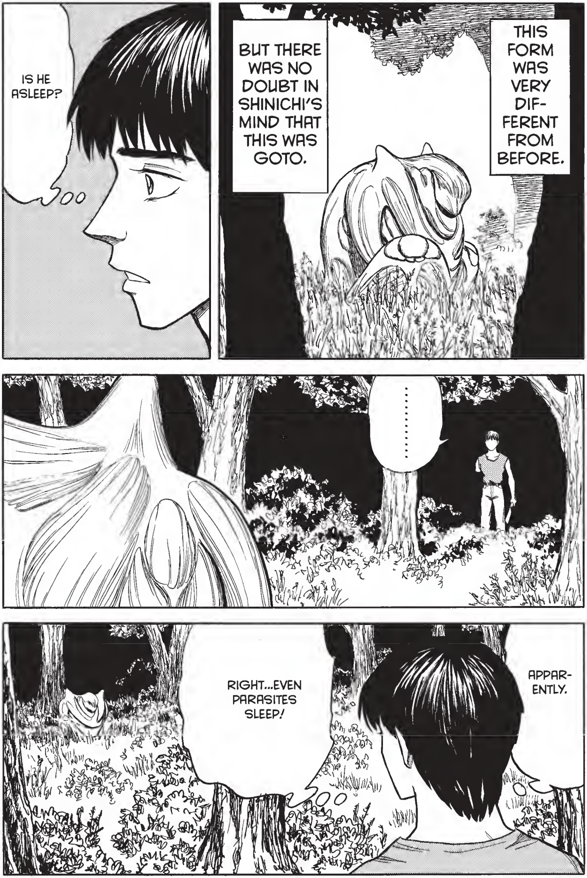

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE MOON, IT WOULD BE PITCH BLACK...

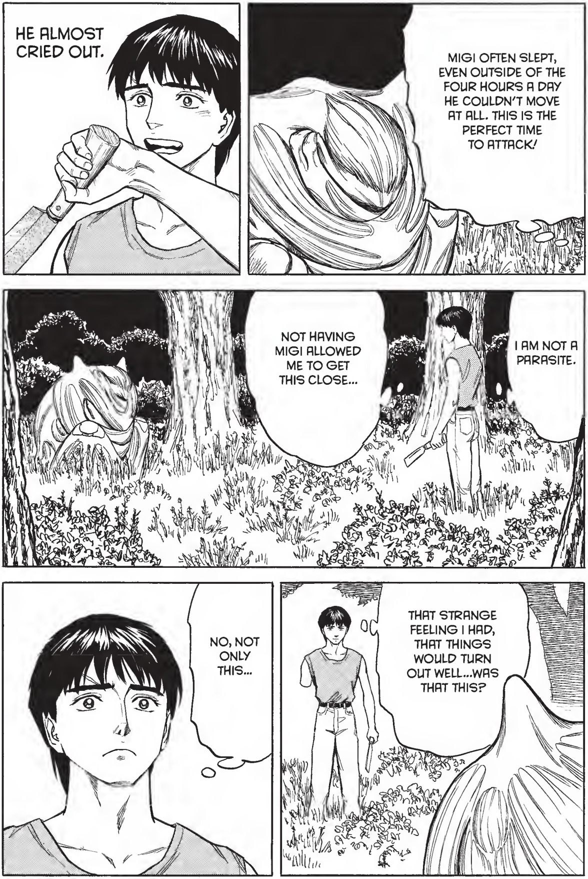

AND I THOUGHT THE MOUNTAINS WOULD BE QUIET AT NIGHT.
INSECTS AND ANIMALS CRYING OUT, MOVING AROUND...
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FIND GOTO'S BREATHING IN ALL THIS...
THIS HATCHET DOESN'T CUT AT ALL...
WHACK
OH, THAT'S NOT IT...
...IT'S MADE FOR THE RIGHT HAND.

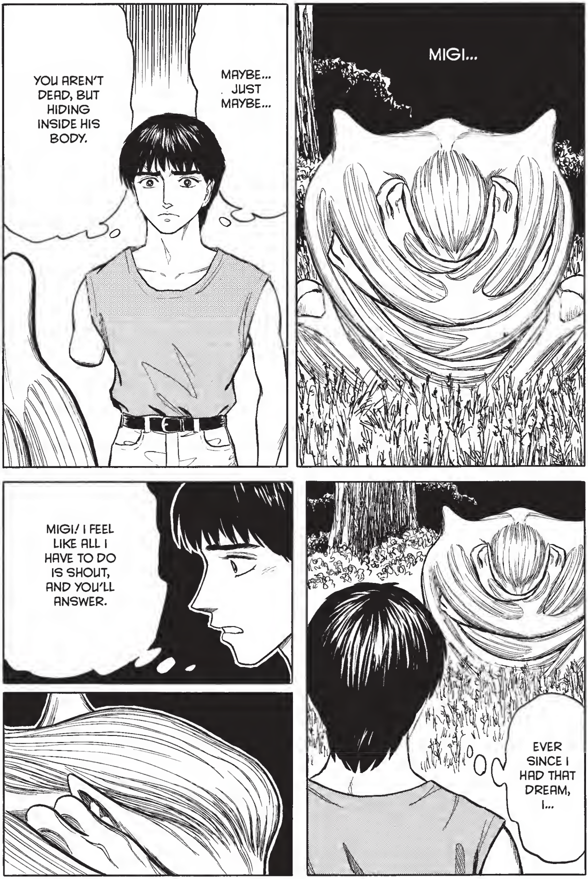

SAME DIFFERENCE.
SIGH...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GRABBED A BUTCHER KNIFE.
SHINICHI DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING RESEMBLING A PLAN. ALL HIS FEELINGS SEEMED SOMEHOW PARALYZED: HIS DESIRE FOR LIFE, HIS FEAR OF DEATH, HIS ANGER, HIS SADNESS.
HIS LEGS SIMPLY CARRIED HIM ONWARD.
HE HAD SEEN TOO MANY DEATHS, AND TOMORROW, AGAIN, THE MONSTER HE HAD LED HERE WOULD CLAIM MANY LIVES.
IT WAS NOT BRAVERY IN THE FACE OF HARDSHIP THAT DROVE HIM ON, NOR WAS IT A SENSE OF DUTY AS A HUMAN BEING.

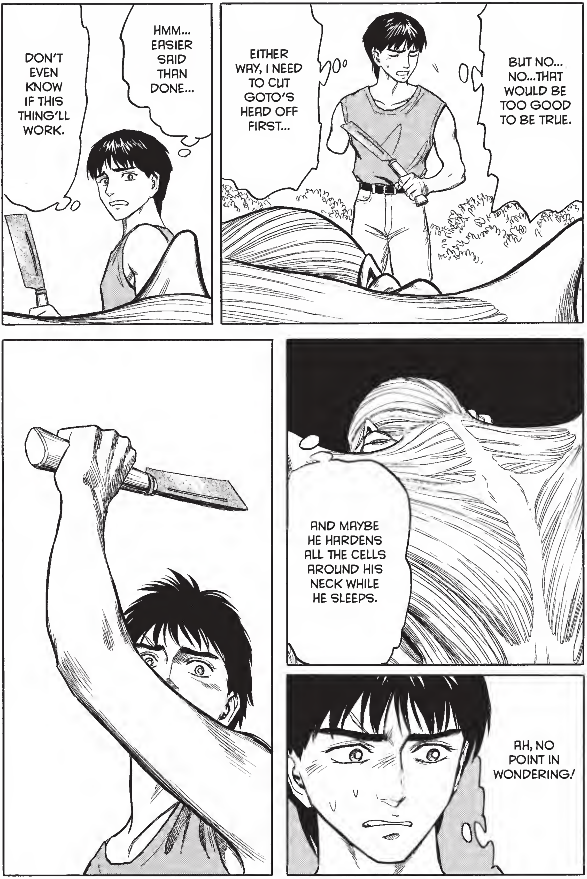

REALISTICALLY, ALL THAT WAITED FOR HIM WAS CERTAIN DEATH.
COUPLED WITH THE GUILT OF HAVING STARTED THIS ALL, HE WAS STARTING TO FEEL "ENOUGH ALREADY." IN OTHER WORDS, THIS WAS A FORM OF *ESCAPE*.
THERE WAS A STRANGE KIND OF BALANCE. "IT MUST BE MY TURN SOON" OR "IT'S NOT RIGHT THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVES."
"I MIGHT THINK OF SOMETHING ONCE I FIND HIM..."
BUT THE MORE HE WALKED, THE MORE OPTIMISTIC HE FELT. HE DID NOT KNOW THE REASON WHY.
EVEN THOUGH HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

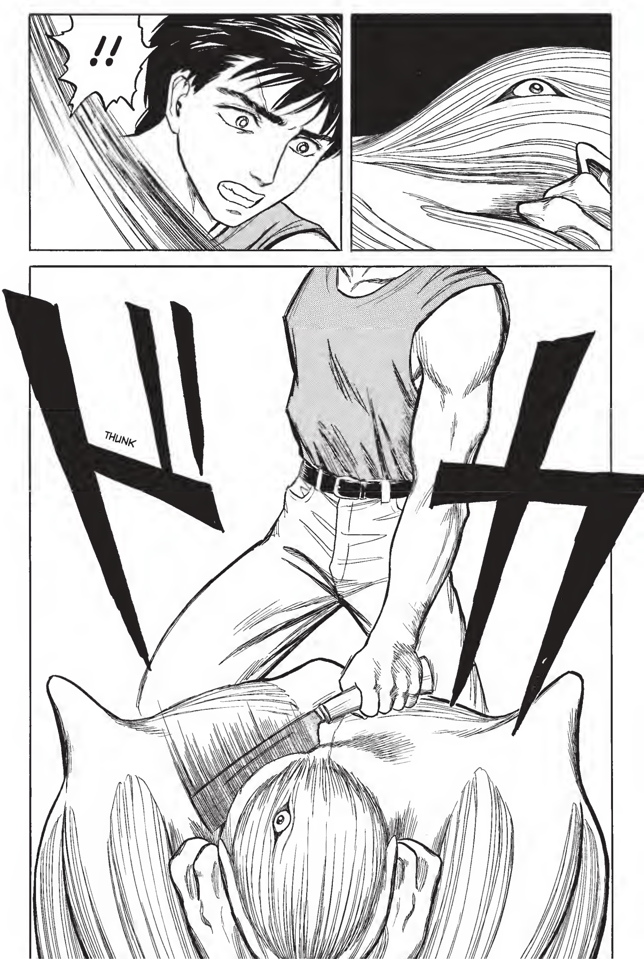

HUMANS AND PARASITES HAD NO BRAIN WAVES TO DRAWN THEM TOGETHER, AND HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THEIR EYES.
CERTAINLY, SHINICHI'S SENSES WERE SUPERHUMAN. ADD TO THAT A KIND OF ANIMAL INSTINCT.
BUT GIVEN THE SIZE OF THE MOUNTAIN, IT WAS STILL NEARLY MIRACULOUS...
...THAT SHINICHI FOUND GOTO FIRST.

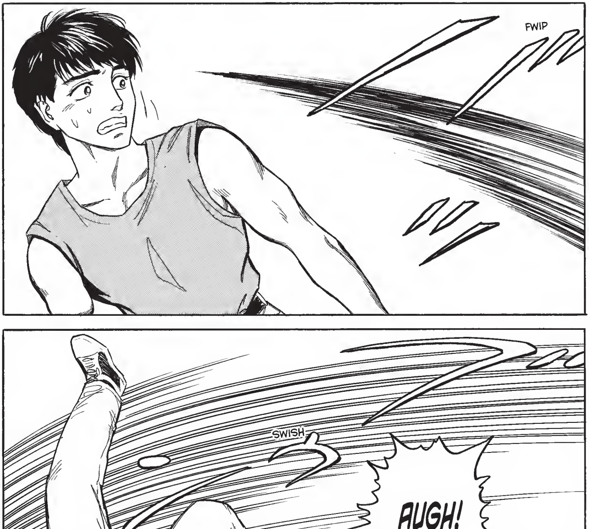

IS HE ASLEEP?
THIS FORM WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN SHINICHI'S MIND THAT THIS WAS GOTO.
......
APPARENTLY.
RIGHT...EVEN PARASITES SLEEP!

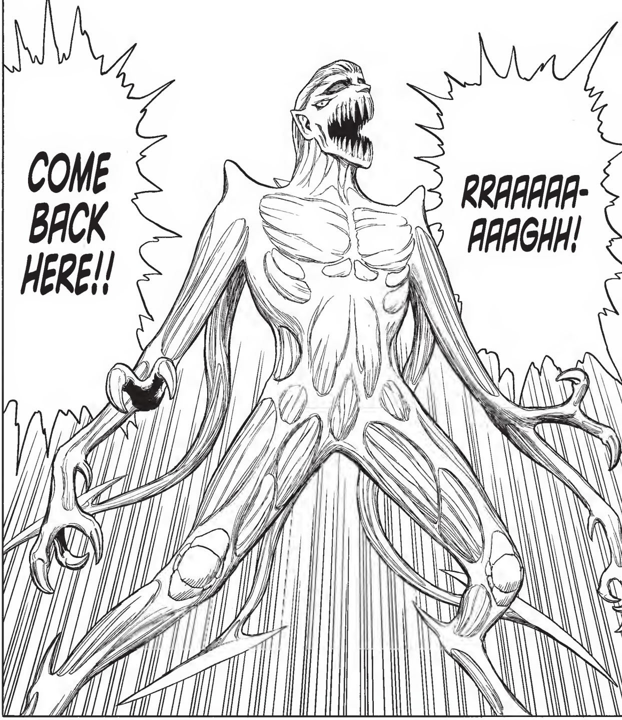

MIGI OFTEN SLEPT, EVEN OUTSIDE OF THE FOUR HOURS A DAY HE COULDN'T MOVE AT ALL. THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO ATTACK!
HE ALMOST CRIED OUT.
I AM NOT A PARASITE.
NOT HAVING MIGI ALLOWED ME TO GET THIS CLOSE...
THAT STRANGE FEELING I HAD, THAT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT WELL...WAS THAT THIS?
NO, NOT ONLY THIS...

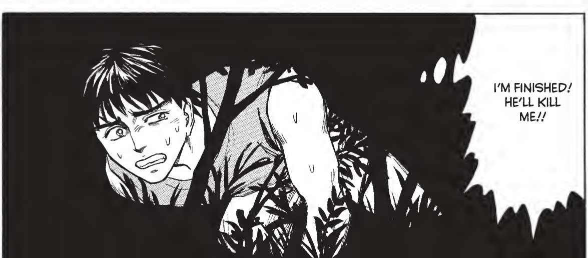

MIGI...
MAYBE... JUST MAYBE...
YOU AREN'T DEAD, BUT HIDING INSIDE HIS BODY.
EVER SINCE I HAD THAT DREAM, I...
MIGI! I FEEL LIKE ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHOUT, AND YOU'LL ANSWER.

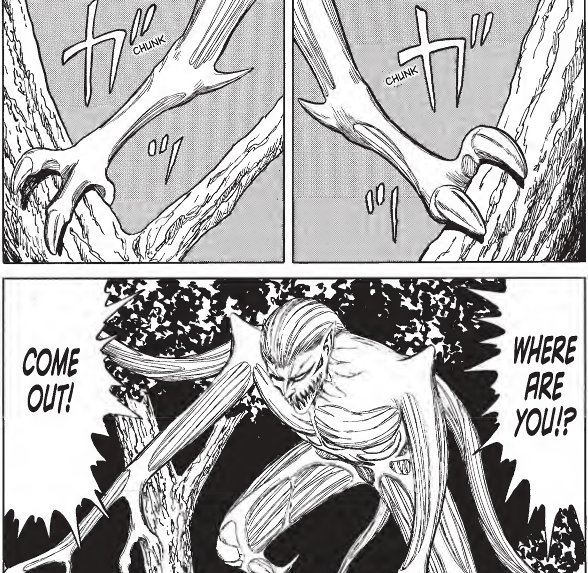

BUT NO... NO...THAT WOULD BE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
EITHER WAY, I NEED TO CUT GOTO'S HEAD OFF FIRST...
HMM... EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THIS THING'LL WORK.
AND MAYBE HE HARDENS ALL THE CELLS AROUND HIS NECK WHILE HE SLEEPS.
AH, NO POINT IN WONDERING!

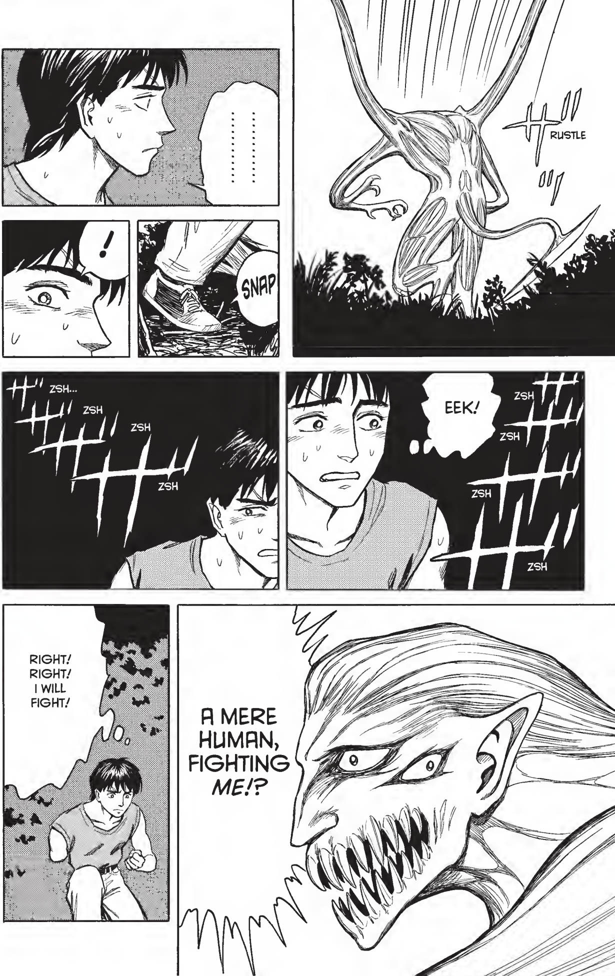

!!
ドカ
THUNK

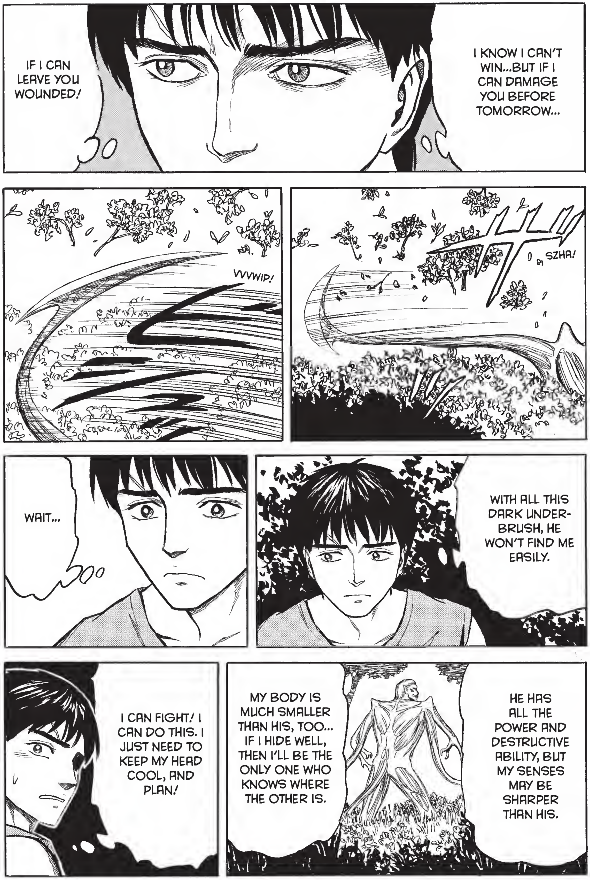

FWIP
AUGH!
SWISH
DAMN IT!
RUSTLE
I KNEW IT!
RUSTLE

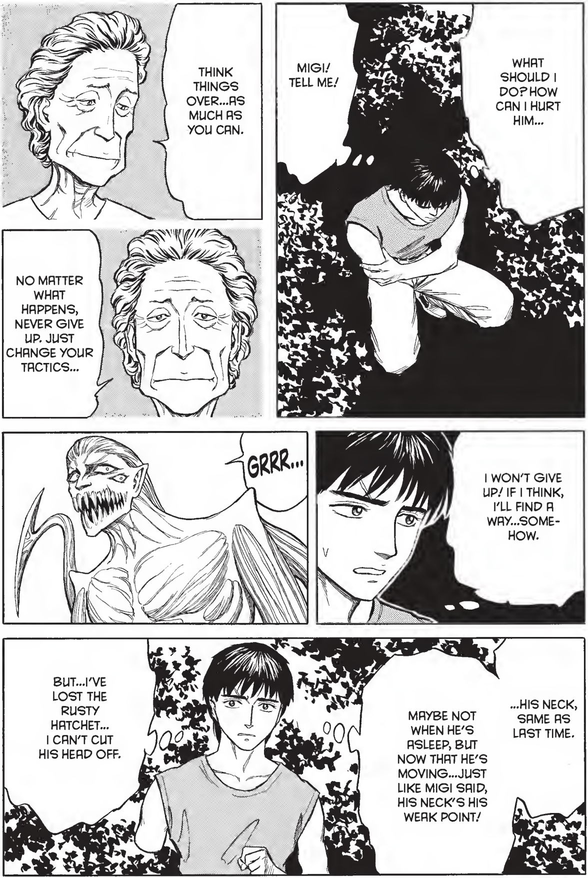

RRAAAAA-
AAAGHH!
COME
BACK
HERE!!

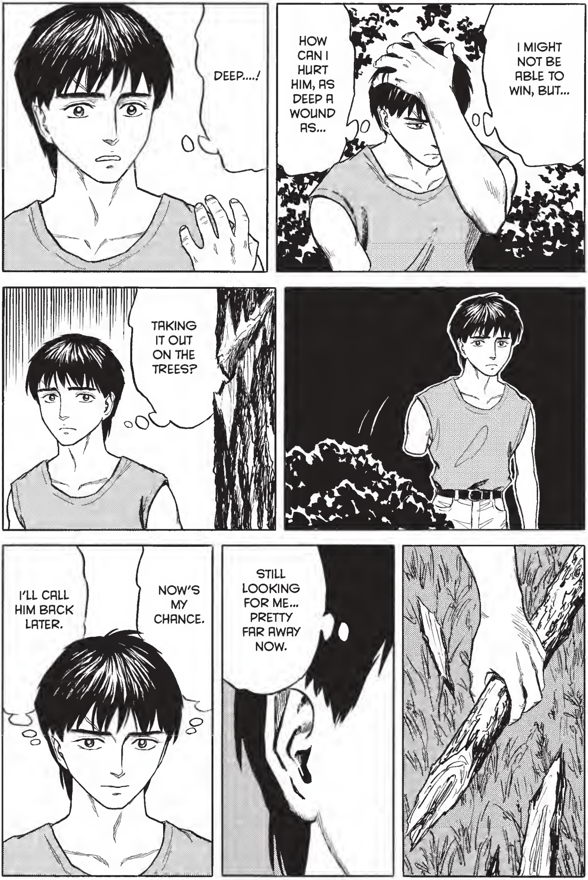

I'M FINISHED!
HE'LL KILL
ME!!

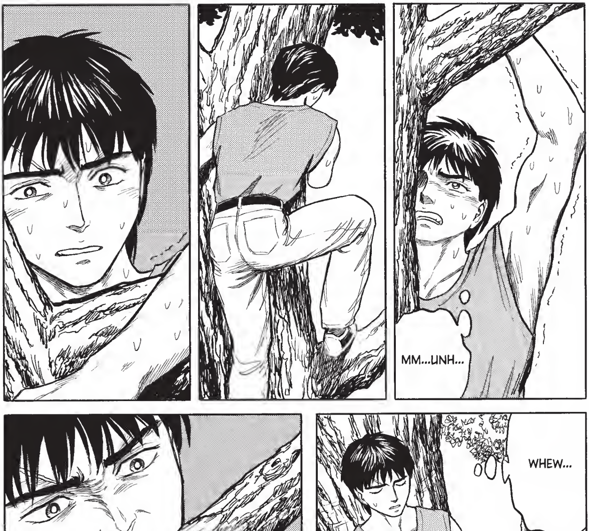

ガ
CHUNK
ガ
CHUNK
WHERE ARE YOU!?
COME OUT!
!?
HE LOST ME?
RIGHT! HE HAS TO SEE ME TO FIND ME...ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HIDE!

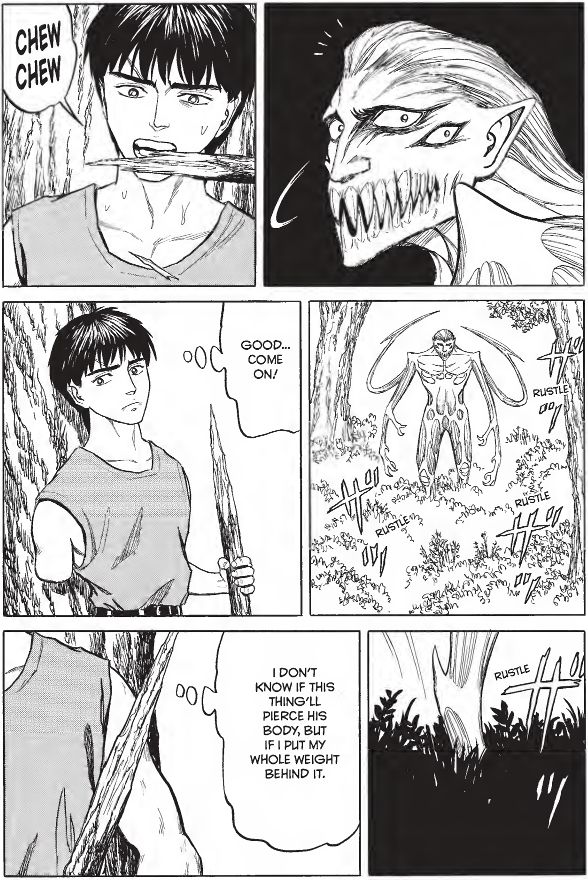

......
!
SNAP
RUSTLE
ZSH...
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
EEK!
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
RIGHT! RIGHT! I WILL FIGHT!
A MERE HUMAN, FIGHTING *ME!?*

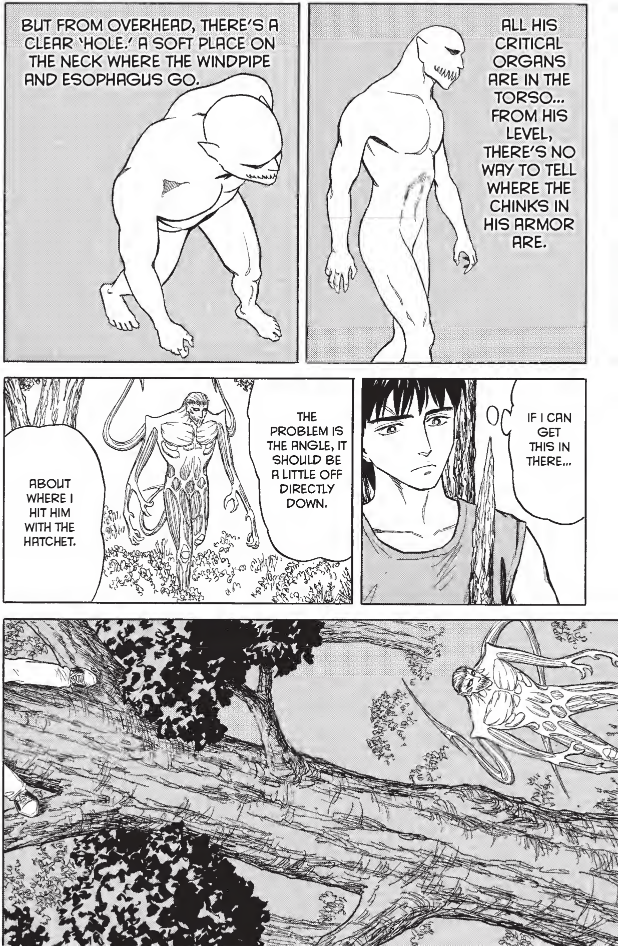

I KNOW I CAN'T WIN...BUT IF I CAN DAMAGE YOU BEFORE TOMORROW...
IF I CAN LEAVE YOU WOUNDED!
SZHA!
VVVWIP!
WITH ALL THIS DARK UNDERBRUSH, HE WON'T FIND ME EASILY.
WAIT...
HE HAS ALL THE POWER AND DESTRUCTIVE ABILITY, BUT MY SENSES MAY BE SHARPER THAN HIS.
MY BODY IS MUCH SMALLER THAN HIS, TOO... IF I HIDE WELL, THEN I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE OTHER IS.
I CAN FIGHT! I CAN DO THIS. I JUST NEED TO KEEP MY HEAD COOL, AND PLAN!

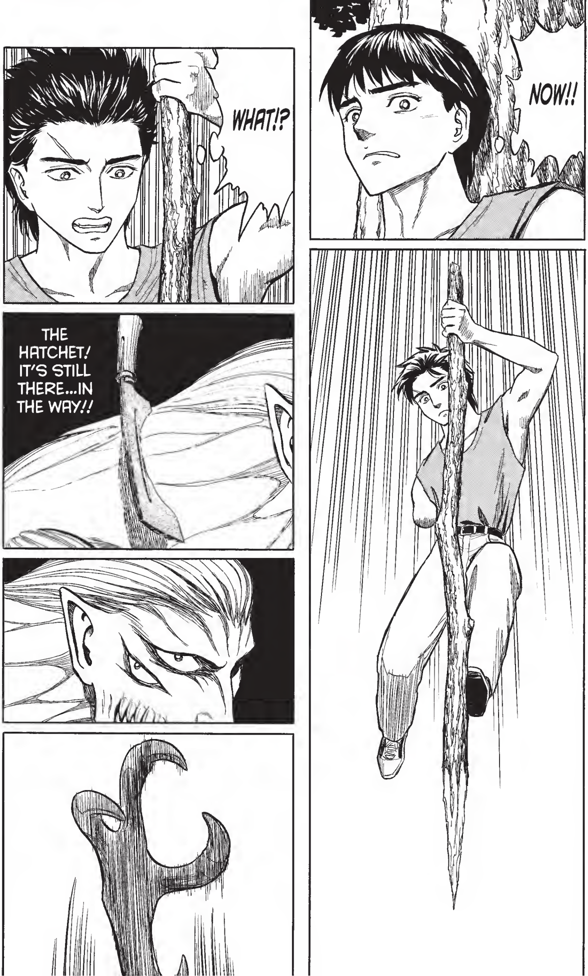

THINK THINGS OVER...AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
MIGI! TELL ME!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW CAN I HURT HIM...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NEVER GIVE UP. JUST CHANGE YOUR TACTICS...
GRRR...
I WON'T GIVE UP! IF I THINK, I'LL FIND A WAY...SOMEHOW.
BUT...I'VE LOST THE RUSTY HATCHET... I CAN'T CUT HIS HEAD OFF.
MAYBE NOT WHEN HE'S ASLEEP, BUT NOW THAT HE'S MOVING...JUST LIKE MIGI SAID, HIS NECK'S HIS WEAK POINT!
...HIS NECK, SAME AS LAST TIME.

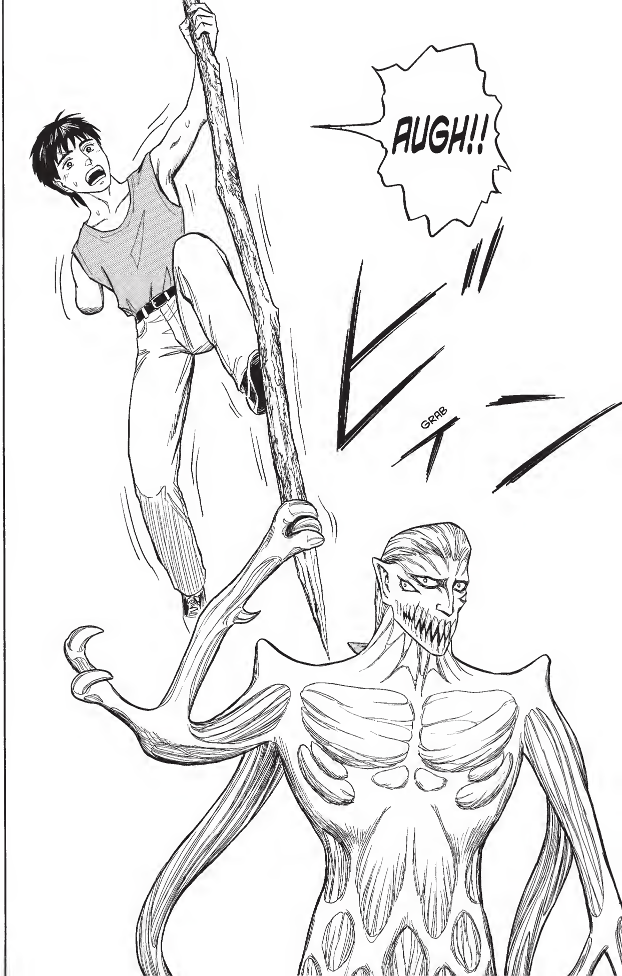

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO WIN, BUT...
HOW CAN I HURT HIM, AS DEEP A WOUND AS...
DEEP....!
TAKING IT OUT ON THE TREES?
STILL LOOKING FOR ME... PRETTY FAR AWAY NOW.
NOW'S MY CHANCE.
I'LL CALL HIM BACK LATER.

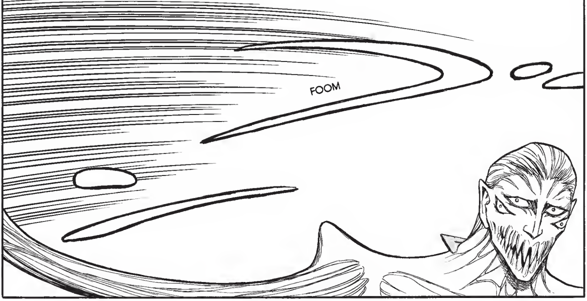

MM...UNH...
SNAP!
WHEW...

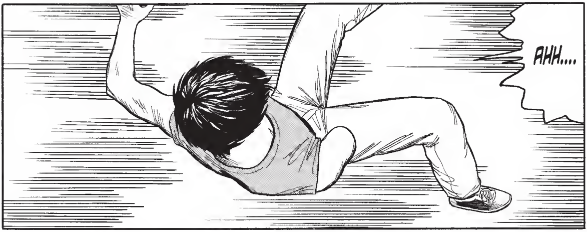

CHEW
CHEW
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GOOD... COME ON!
RUSTLE
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS THING'LL PIERCE HIS BODY, BUT IF I PUT MY WHOLE WEIGHT BEHIND IT.

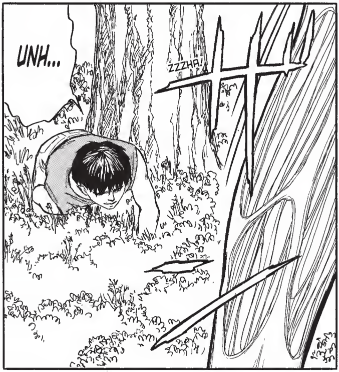

ALL HIS CRITICAL ORGANS ARE IN THE TORSO... FROM HIS LEVEL, THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL WHERE THE CHINKS IN HIS ARMOR ARE.
BUT FROM OVERHEAD, THERE'S A CLEAR 'HOLE.' A SOFT PLACE ON THE NECK WHERE THE WINDPIPE AND ESOPHAGUS GO.
IF I CAN GET THIS IN THERE...
ABOUT WHERE I HIT HIM WITH THE HATCHET.
THE PROBLEM IS THE ANGLE, IT SHOULD BE A LITTLE OFF DIRECTLY DOWN.

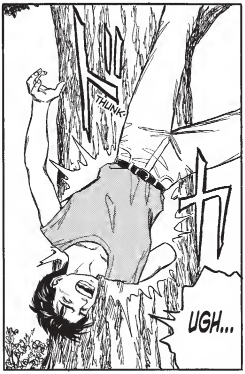

WHAT!?
THE HATCHET! IT'S STILL THERE...IN THE WAY!!
NOW!!

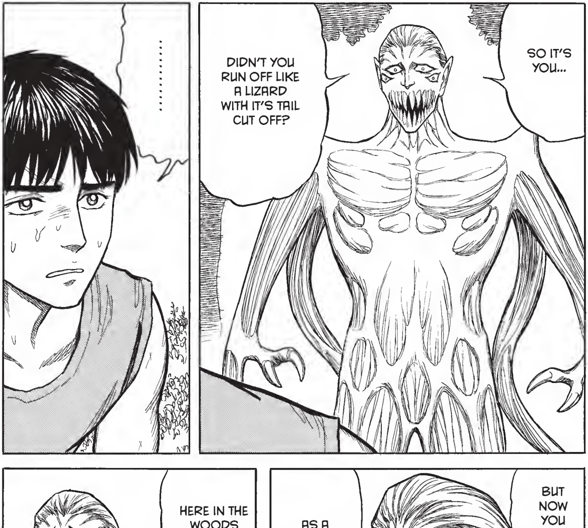

AUGH!!
GRAB

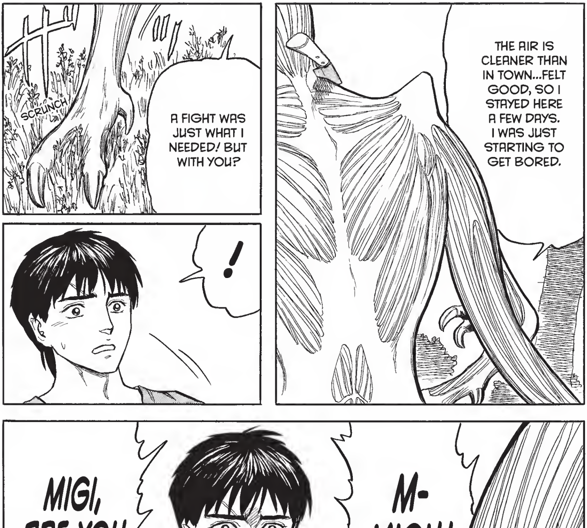

FOOM

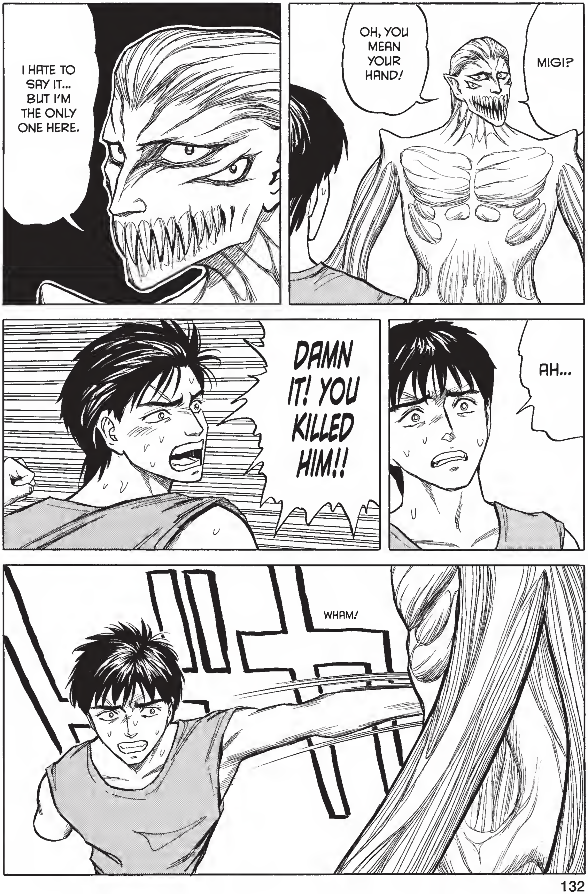

AHH....

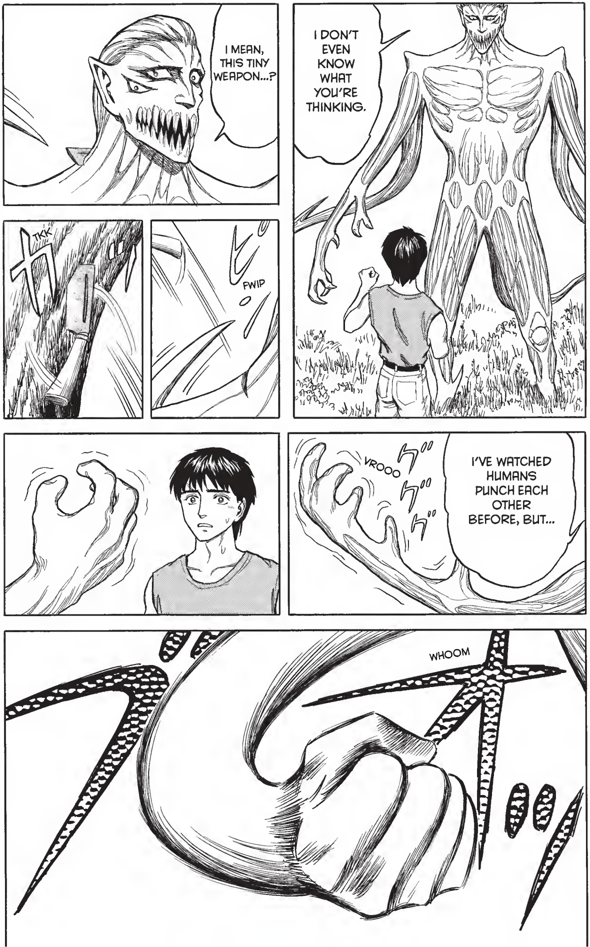

UNH...
ZZZHA!

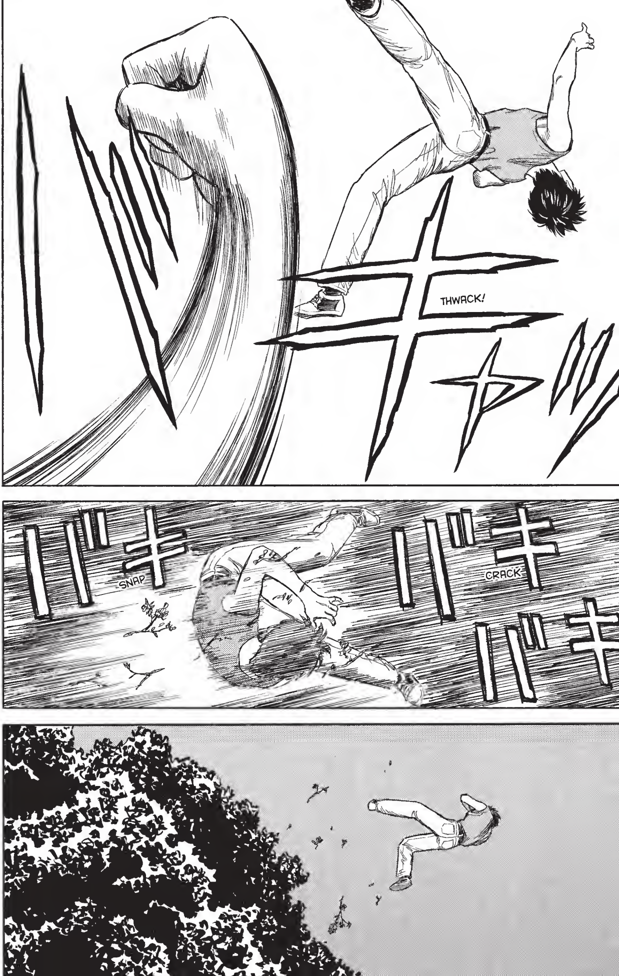

THUNK
UGH...

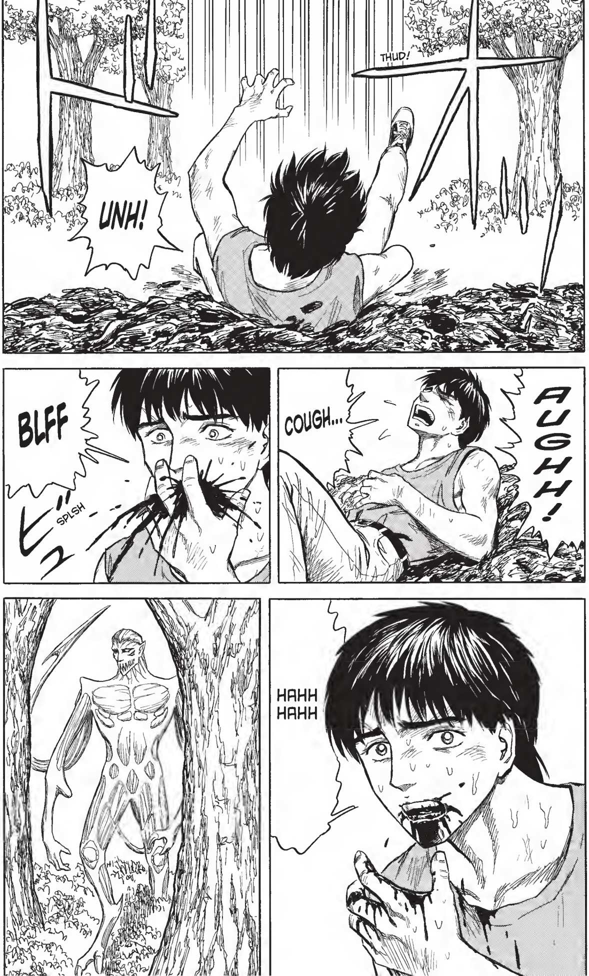

SO IT'S YOU...
DIDN'T YOU RUN OFF LIKE A LIZARD WITH IT'S TAIL CUT OFF?
......
BUT NOW YOU WANT TO FIGHT SOME MORE?
AS A HUMAN? ALL BY YOURSELF?
THE NEW SHAPE SUITS YOU... A MONSTER LIKE YOU HAS NO BUSINESS DISGUISED AS A HUMAN.
HERE IN THE WOODS THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO LOOK HUMAN.

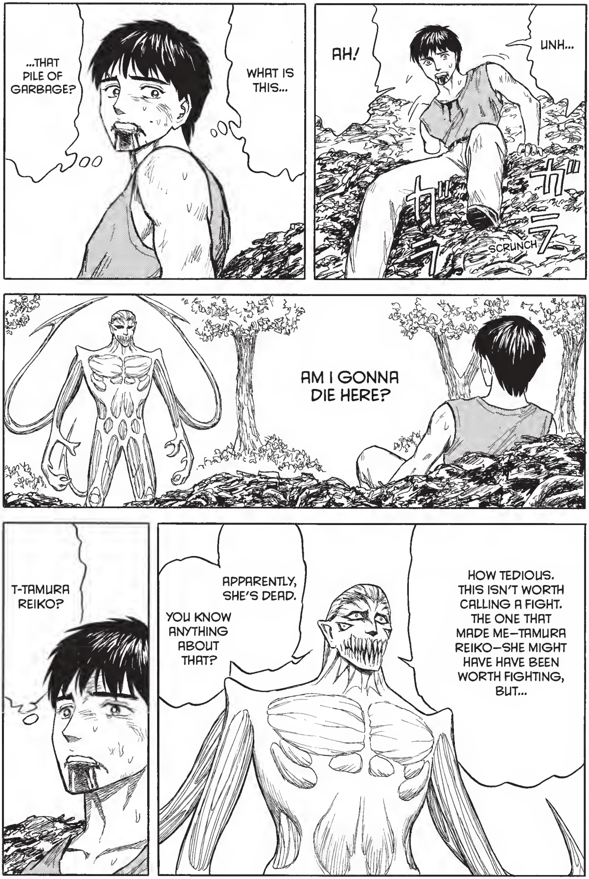

THE AIR IS CLEANER THAN IN TOWN...FELT GOOD, SO I STAYED HERE A FEW DAYS. I WAS JUST STARTING TO GET BORED.
SCRUNCH
A FIGHT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED! BUT WITH YOU?
!
M-MIGI!!
MIGI, ARE YOU THERE!!

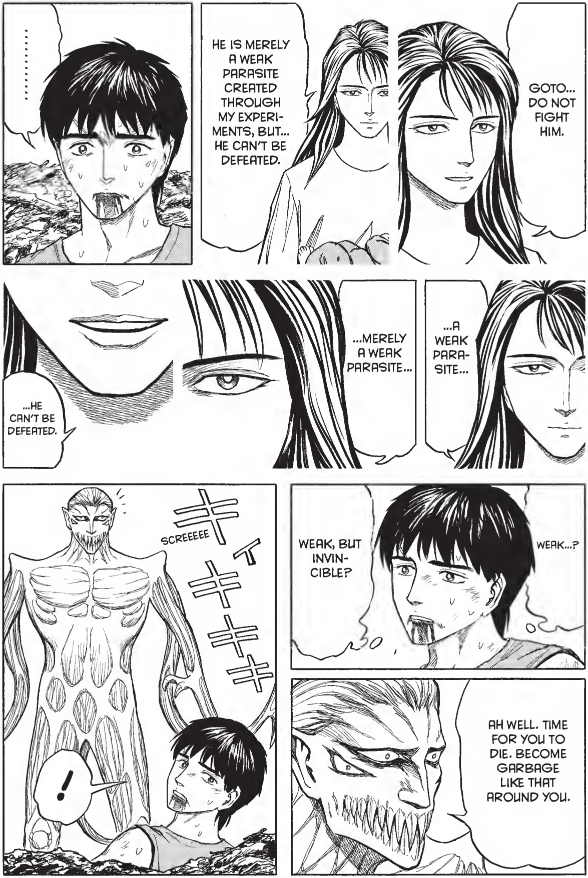

I HATE TO SAY IT... BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE.
OH, YOU MEAN YOUR HAND!
MIGI?
DAMN IT! YOU KILLED HIM!!
AH...
WHAM!

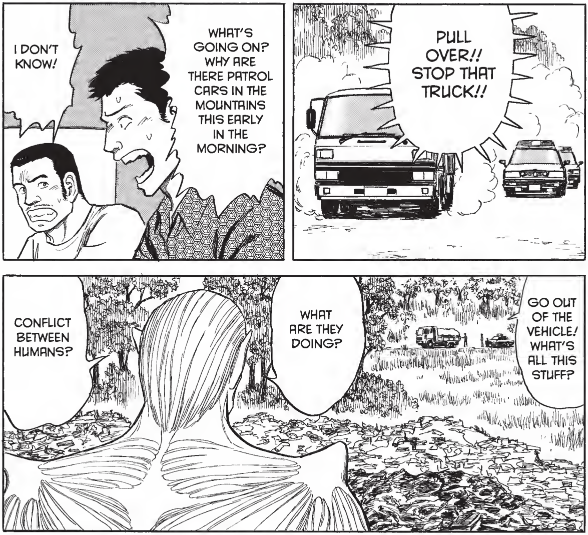

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
I MEAN, THIS TINY WEAPON...?
FWIP
TKK
VROOO
I'VE WATCHED HUMANS PUNCH EACH OTHER BEFORE, BUT...
WHOOM

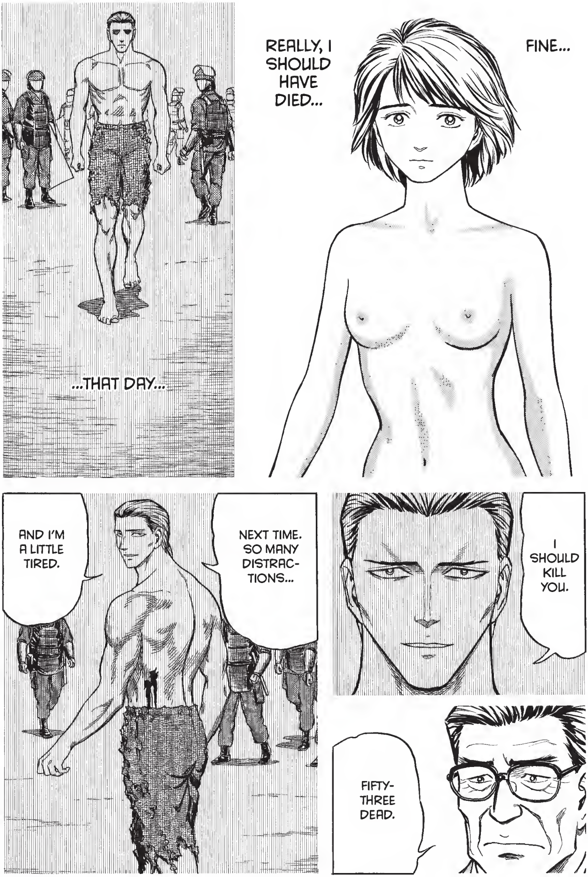

THWACK!
バキ
CRACK
バキ
SNAP
バキ

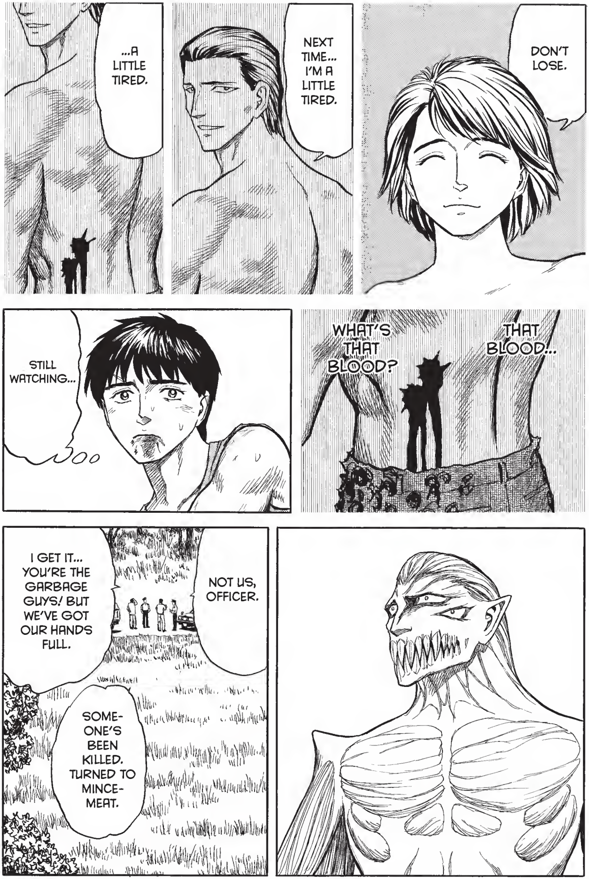

THUD!
UNH!
COUGH...
AUGHH!
BLFF
ビッ
SPLSH
HAHH
HAHH

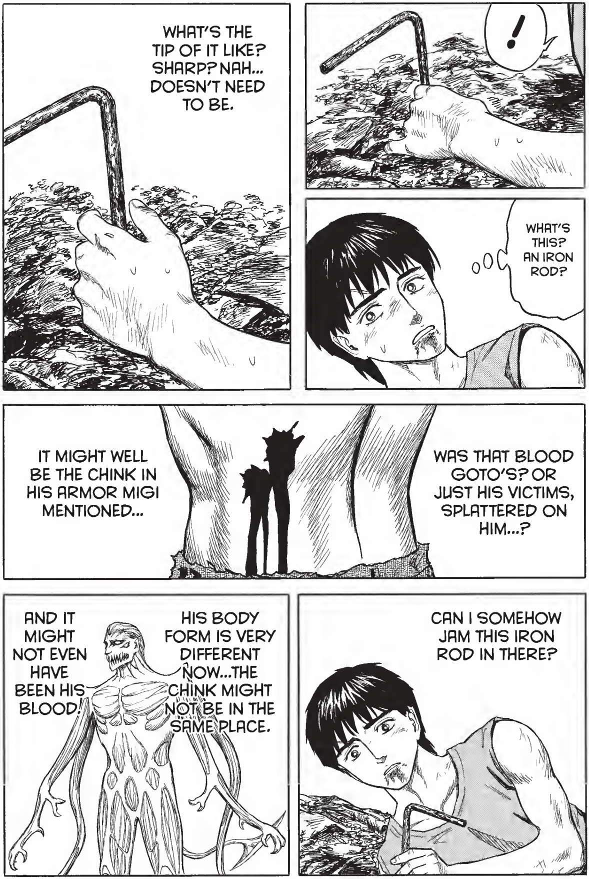

UNH...
AH!
ガラ
ガラ
SCRUNCH
WHAT IS THIS...
...THAT PILE OF GARBAGE?
AM I GONNA DIE HERE?
HOW TEDIOUS. THIS ISN'T WORTH CALLING A FIGHT. THE ONE THAT MADE ME—TAMURA REIKO—SHE MIGHT HAVE HAVE BEEN WORTH FIGHTING, BUT...
APPARENTLY, SHE'S DEAD.
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
T-TAMURA REIKO?

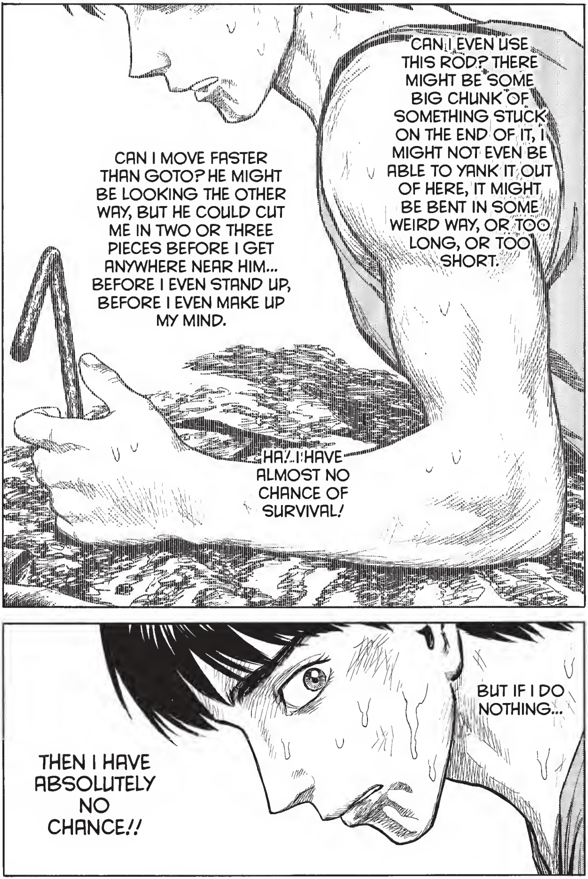

GOTO... DO NOT FIGHT HIM.
HE IS MERELY A WEAK PARASITE CREATED THROUGH MY EXPERIMENTS, BUT... HE CAN'T BE DEFEATED.
............
...A WEAK PARASITE...
...MERELY A WEAK PARASITE...
...HE CAN'T BE DEFEATED.
WEAK...?
WEAK, BUT INVINCIBLE?
SCREEEEE
キイキキキ
!
AH WELL. TIME FOR YOU TO DIE. BECOME GARBAGE LIKE THAT AROUND YOU.

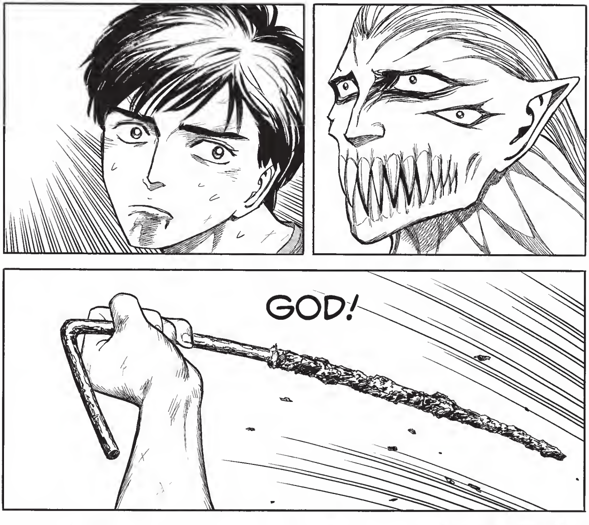

PULL OVER!! STOP THAT TRUCK!!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE THERE PATROL CARS IN THE MOUNTAINS THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
I DON'T KNOW!
GO OUT OF THE VEHICLE! WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
CONFLICT BETWEEN HUMANS?
HE'S WATCHING THEM.
NAH, HE COULD TURN BACK AND KILL ME ANY MOMENT.
AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
NO TIME TO THINK!
NEVER GIVE UP.
I'M SECONDS FROM DEATH!!


FINE...
REALLY, I SHOULD HAVE DIED...
...THAT DAY...
I SHOULD KILL YOU.
NEXT TIME. SO MANY DISTRACTIONS...
AND I'M A LITTLE TIRED.
FIFTY-THREE DEAD.

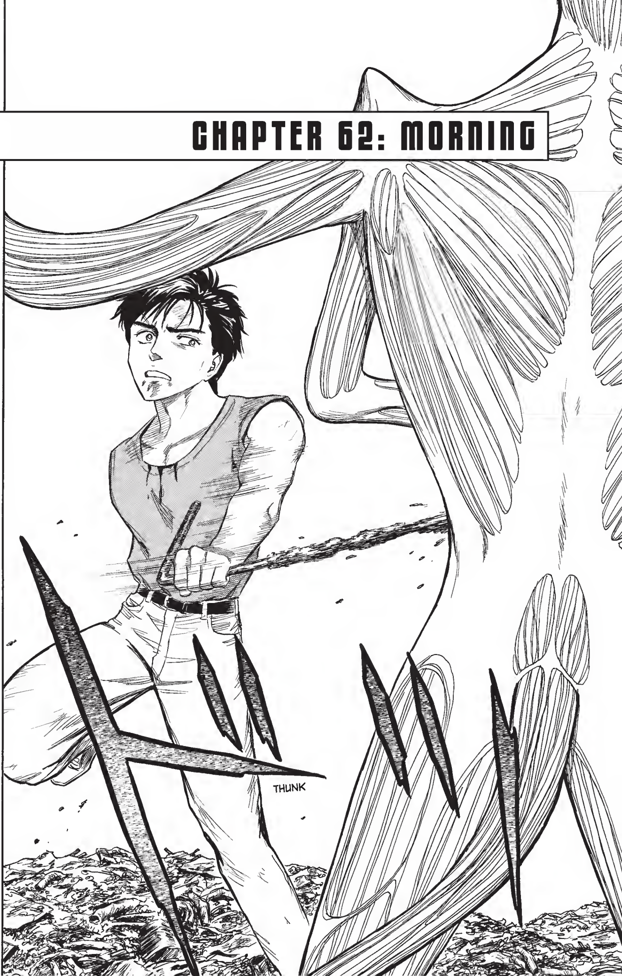

...A LITTLE TIRED.
NEXT TIME... I'M A LITTLE TIRED.
DON'T LOSE.
STILL WATCHING...
WHAT'S THAT BLOOD?
THAT BLOOD...
I GET IT... YOU'RE THE GARBAGE GUYS! BUT WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL.
NOT US, OFFICER.
SOMEONE'S BEEN KILLED. TURNED TO MINCEMEAT.

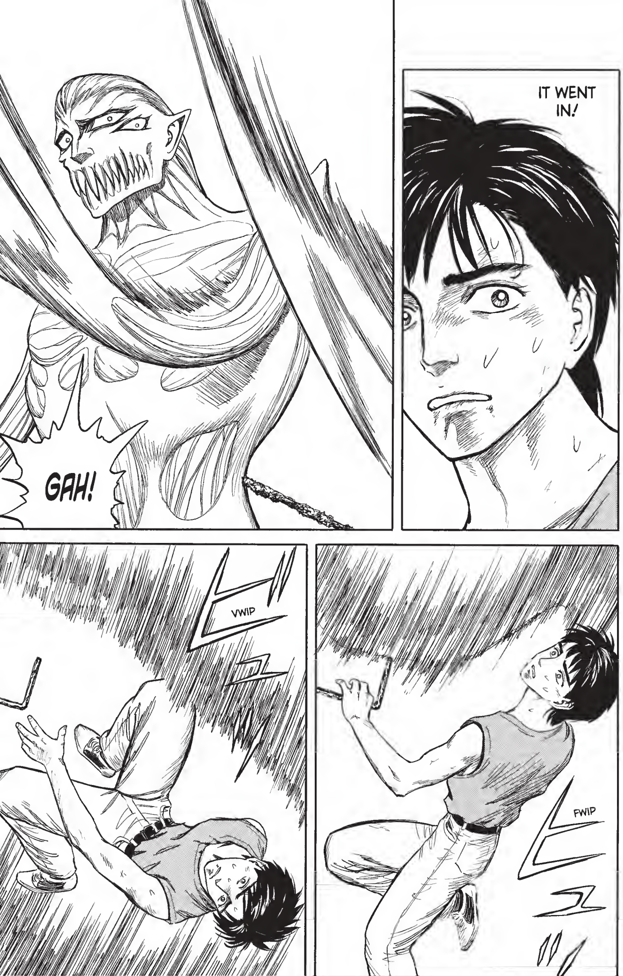

WHAT'S THE TIP OF IT LIKE? SHARP? NAH... DOESN'T NEED TO BE.
!
WHAT'S THIS? AN IRON ROD?
IT MIGHT WELL BE THE CHINK IN HIS ARMOR MIGI MENTIONED...
WAS THAT BLOOD GOTO'S? OR JUST HIS VICTIMS, SPLATTERED ON HIM...?
AND IT MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN HIS BLOOD!
HIS BODY FORM IS VERY DIFFERENT NOW...THE CHINK MIGHT NOT BE IN THE SAME PLACE.
CAN I SOMEHOW JAM THIS IRON ROD IN THERE?

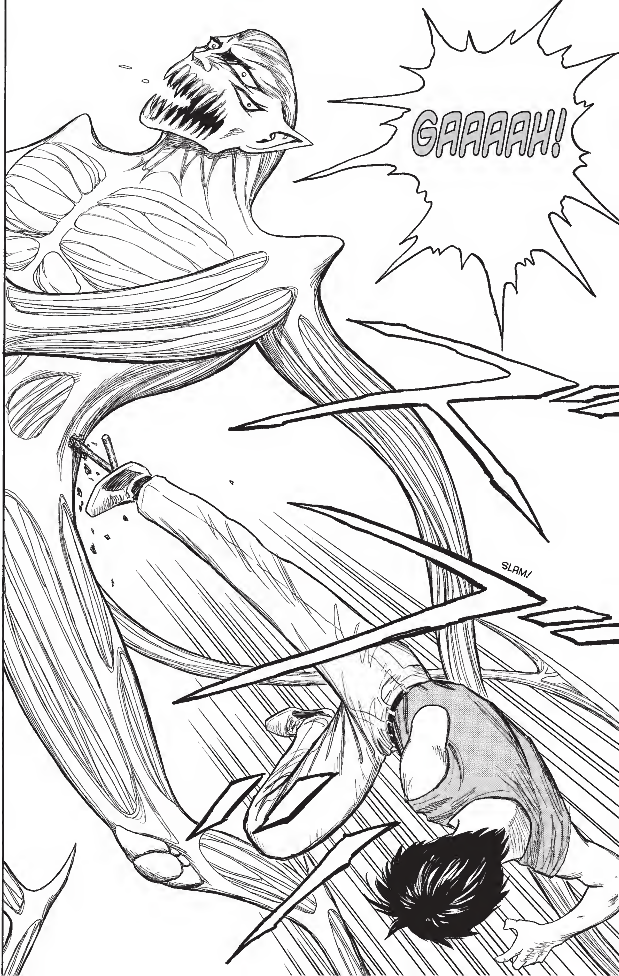

CAN I EVEN USE THIS ROD? THERE MIGHT BE SOME BIG CHUNK OF SOMETHING STUCK ON THE END OF IT, I MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO YANK IT OUT OF HERE, IT MIGHT BE BENT IN SOME WEIRD WAY, OR TOO LONG, OR TOO SHORT.
CAN I MOVE FASTER THAN GOTO? HE MIGHT BE LOOKING THE OTHER WAY, BUT HE COULD CUT ME IN TWO OR THREE PIECES BEFORE I GET ANYWHERE NEAR HIM... BEFORE I EVEN STAND UP, BEFORE I EVEN MAKE UP MY MIND.
HA! I HAVE ALMOST NO CHANCE OF SURVIVAL!
BUT IF I DO NOTHING...
THEN I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE!!

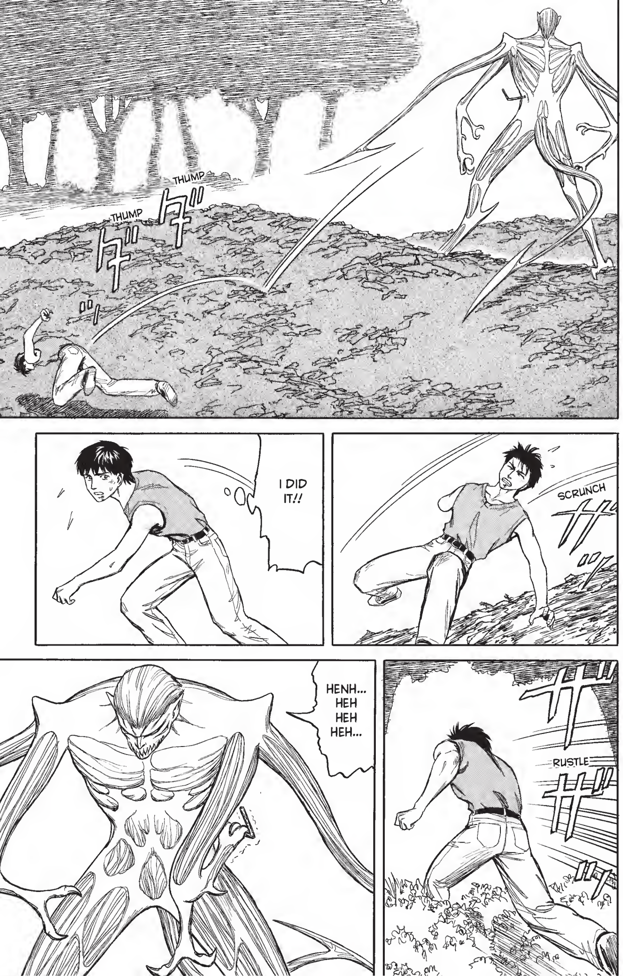

GOD!

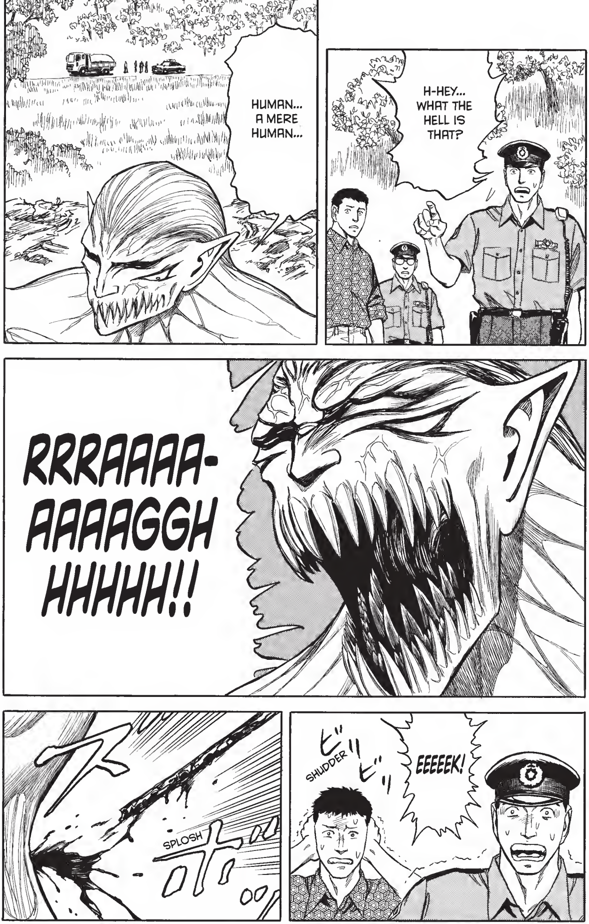
# CHAPTER 62: MORNING

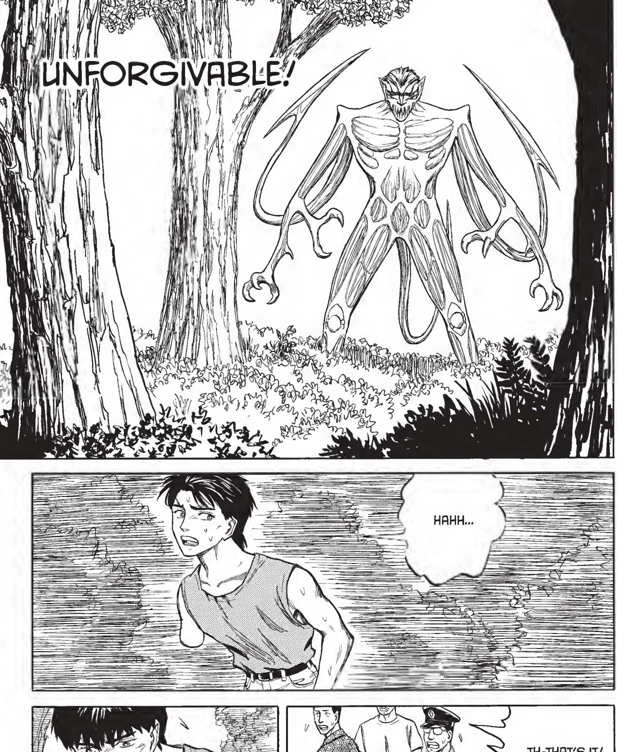


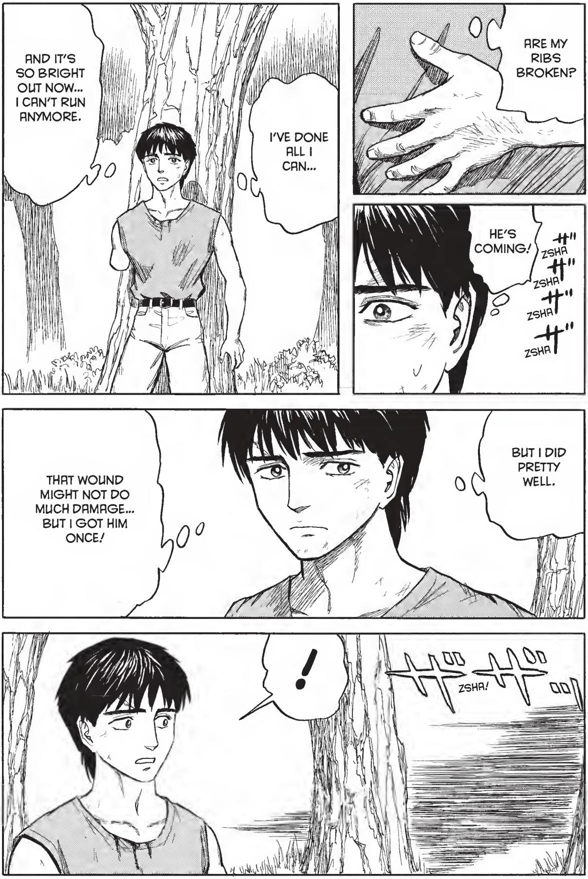

IT WENT IN!
GAH!
FWIP
VWIP

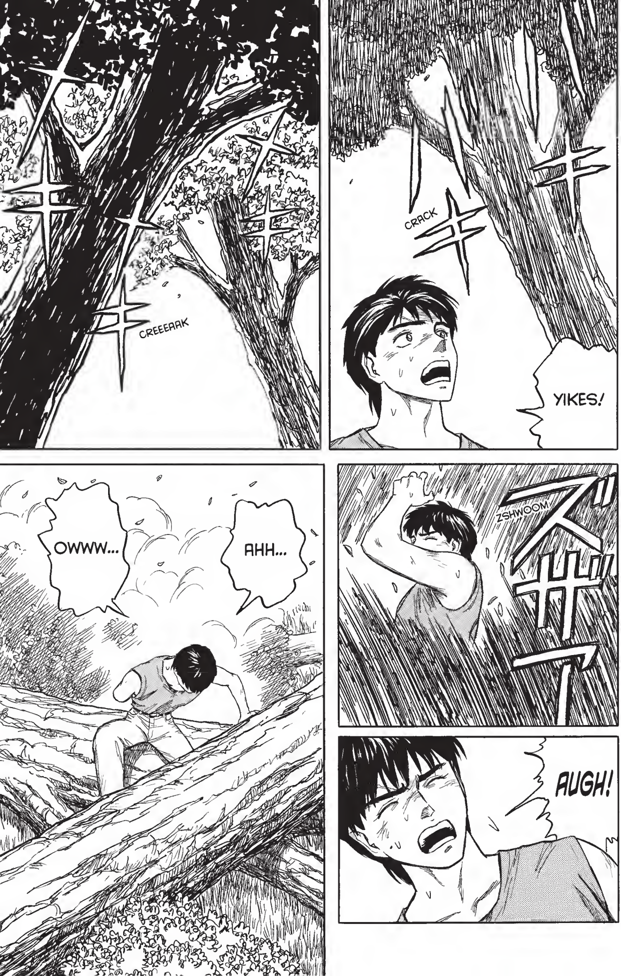

GAAAAH!
SLAM!

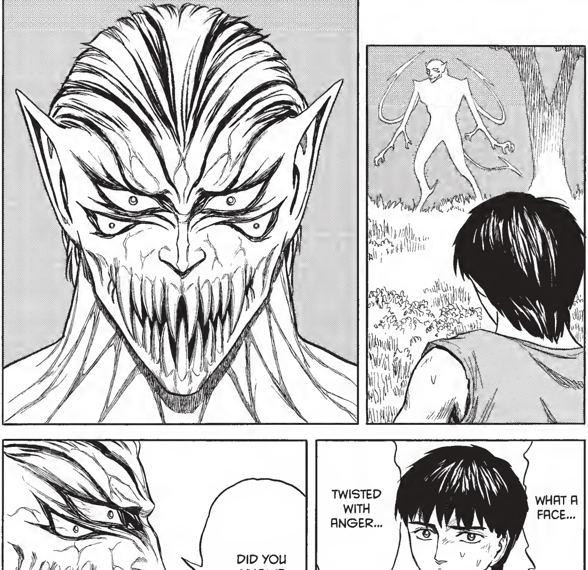

THUMP
THUMP
SCRUNCH
I DID IT!!
RUSTLE
HENH... HEH HEH HEH...

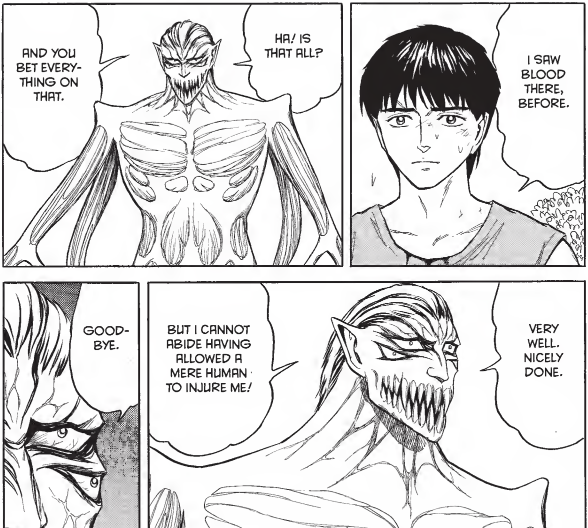

H-HEY... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
HUMAN... A MERE HUMAN...
RRRAAAAA-AAAAGGH HHHHH!!
ビリビリ
SHUDDER
EEEEEK!
ズ
ボッ
SPLOSH

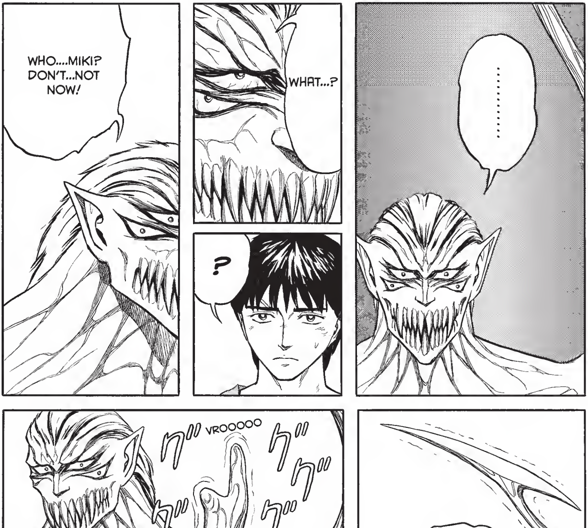

UNFORGIVABLE!
HAHH...
TH-THAT'S IT! THE MONSTER!!
SEND BACKUP NOW!!
UNH...

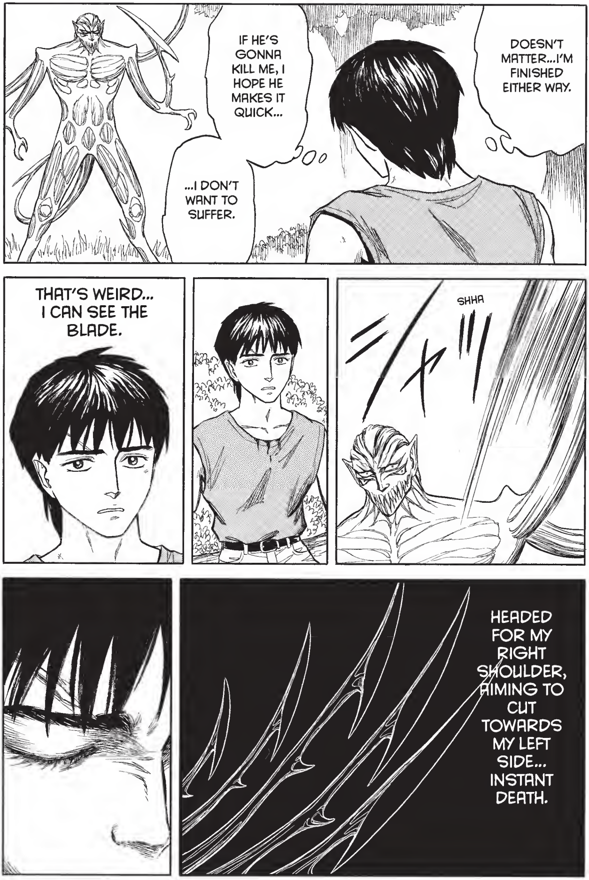

ARE MY RIBS BROKEN?
HE'S COMING!
ザ" ZSHA
ザ" ZSHA
ザ" ZSHA
ザ" ZSHA
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN...
AND IT'S SO BRIGHT OUT NOW... I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE.
BUT I DID PRETTY WELL.
THAT WOUND MIGHT NOT DO MUCH DAMAGE... BUT I GOT HIM ONCE!
!
ザッザッ ZSHA!

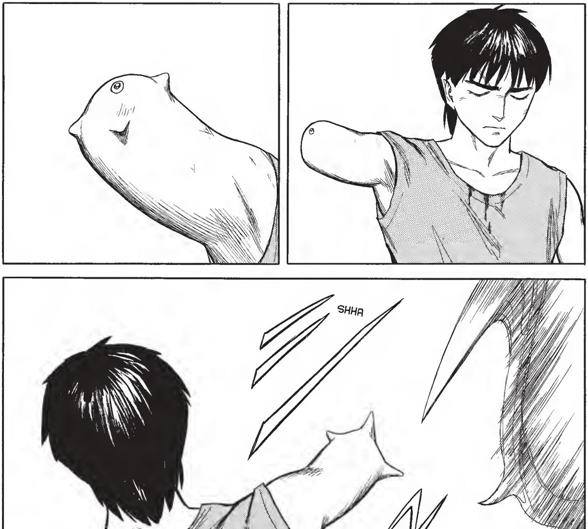

CRACK
YIKES!
CREEEAAK
ZSHWOOM
AUGH!
AHH...
OWWW...

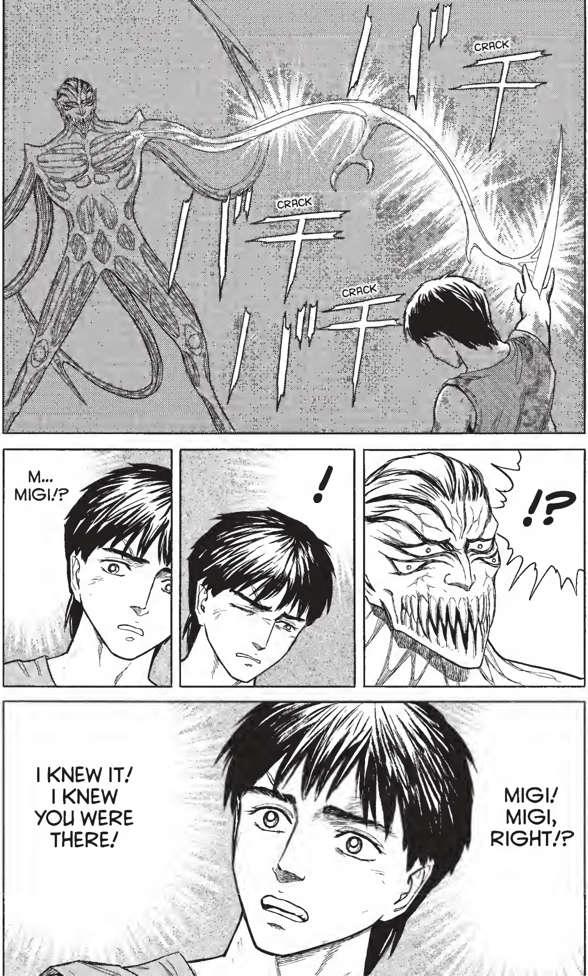

DID YOU KNOW?
WHAT A FACE...
TWISTED WITH ANGER...
HOW DID YOU FIND THE CHINKS IN MY ARMOR?
WH- WHAT?

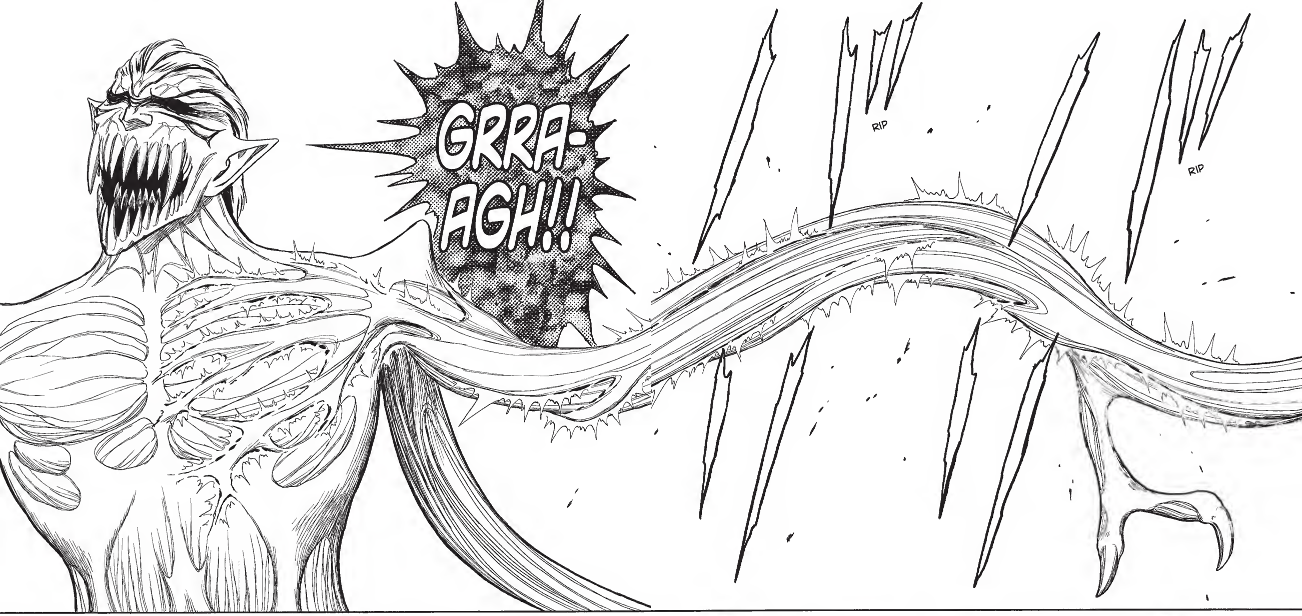

I SAW BLOOD THERE, BEFORE.
HA! IS THAT ALL?
AND YOU BET EVERYTHING ON THAT.
VERY WELL. NICELY DONE.
BUT I CANNOT ABIDE HAVING ALLOWED A MERE HUMAN TO INJURE ME!
GOOD-BYE.
SO THIS TIME... I REALLY AM... FINISHED.

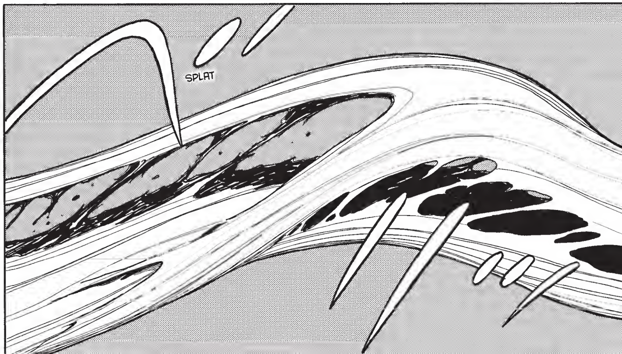

WHO....MIKI? DON'T...NOT NOW!
WHAT...?
?
...........
グ" VROOOOO グ" グ" グ" グ" グ" グ"
THIS IS NOT THE TIME...
WHAT'S HE DOING? WHY FORM THE BLADE AGAIN?

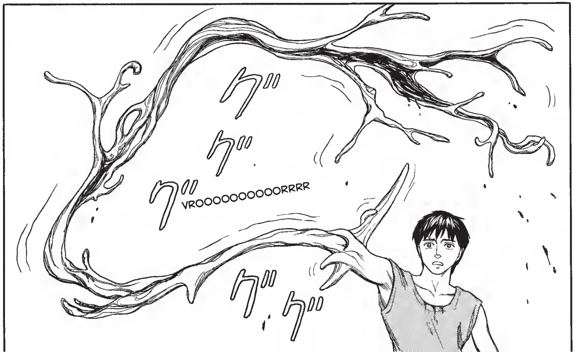

DOESN'T MATTER...I'M FINISHED EITHER WAY.
IF HE'S GONNA KILL ME, I HOPE HE MAKES IT QUICK...
...I DON'T WANT TO SUFFER.
SHHA
THAT'S WEIRD... I CAN SEE THE BLADE.
HEADED FOR MY RIGHT SHOULDER, AIMING TO CUT TOWARDS MY LEFT SIDE... INSTANT DEATH.

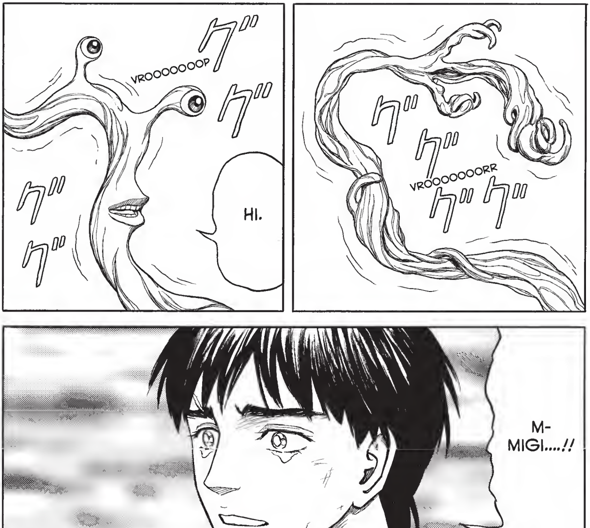

SHHA
THUNK
CRACK

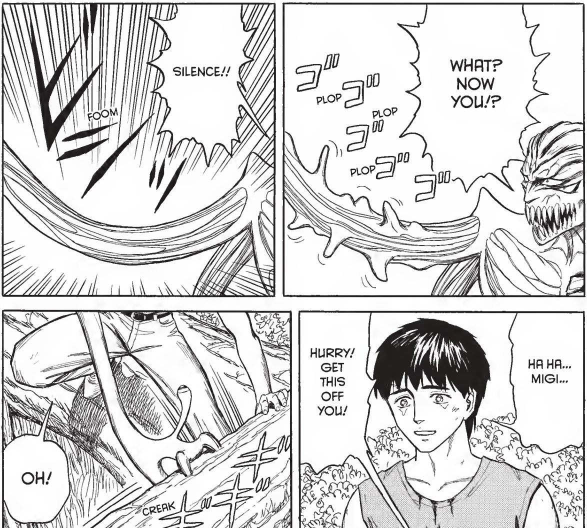

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
!?
!
M... MIGI!?
MIGI! MIGI, RIGHT!?
I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU WERE THERE!

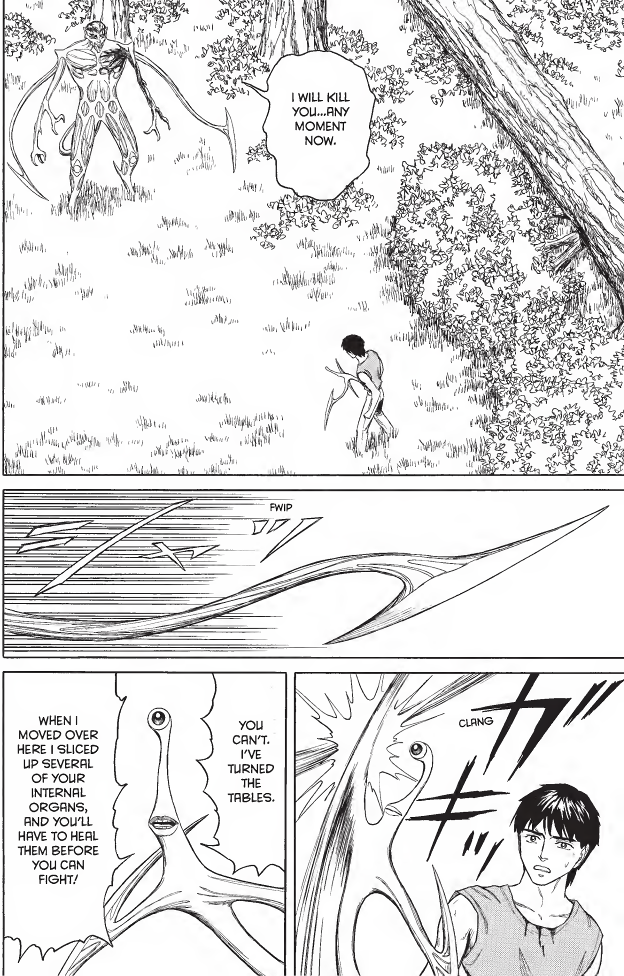

RIP
RIP
GRRA-AGH!!

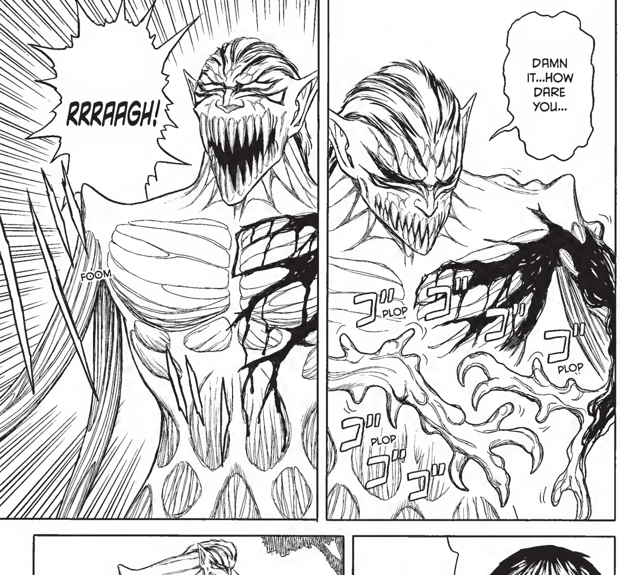

SPLAT

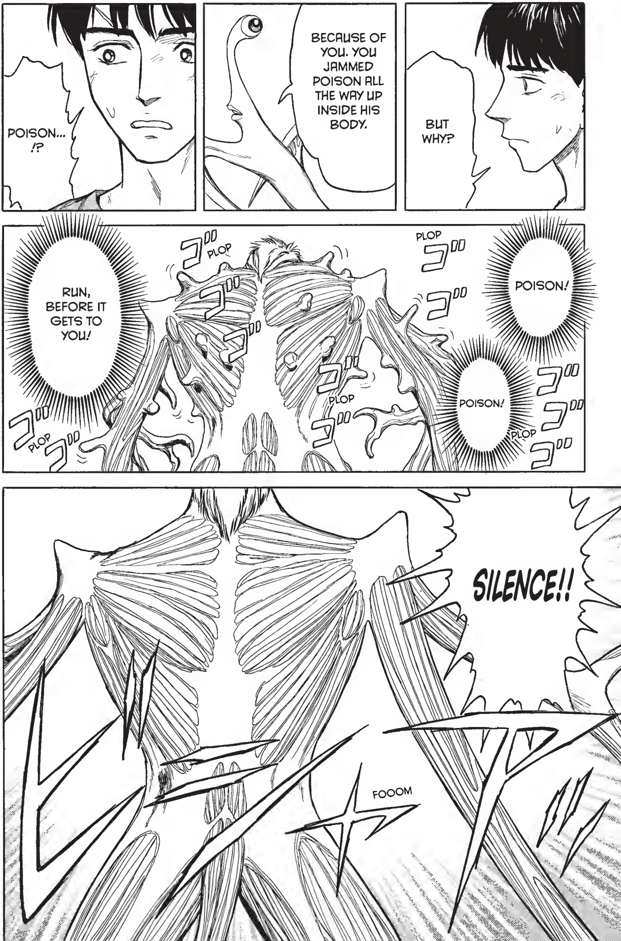

グ
グ
グ
VROOOOOOOOOOOORRRR
グ
グ

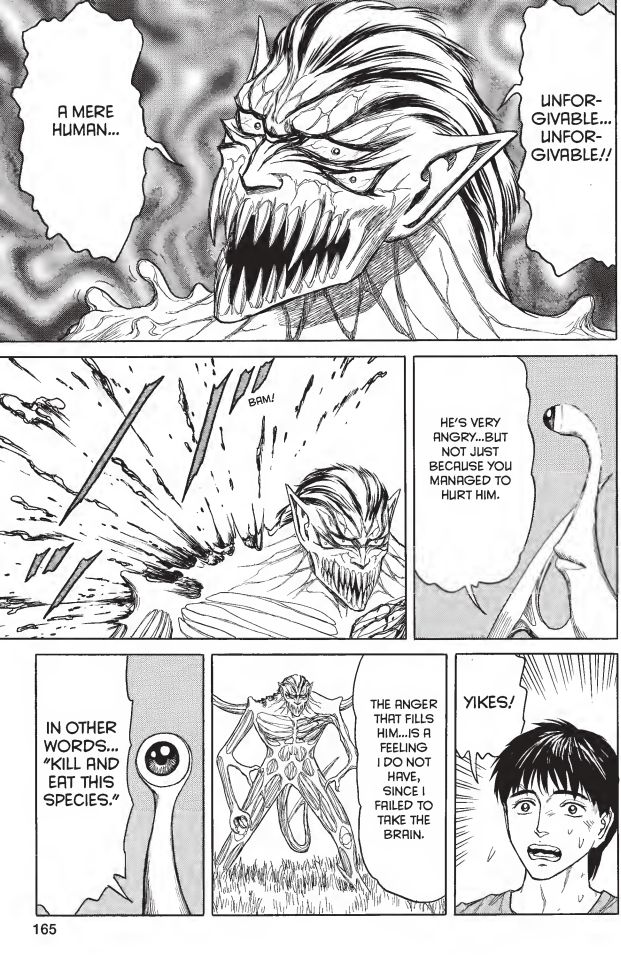

VROOOOOOOP
グ
グ
グ
グ
HI.
グ
グ
VROOOOOOORR
グ
グ
M-
MIGI....!!
!?
ゴ
PLOP
ゴ
PLOP
HOW CAN YOU RESIST?
RIDICULOUS! MERE SCRAPS OF CELLS...

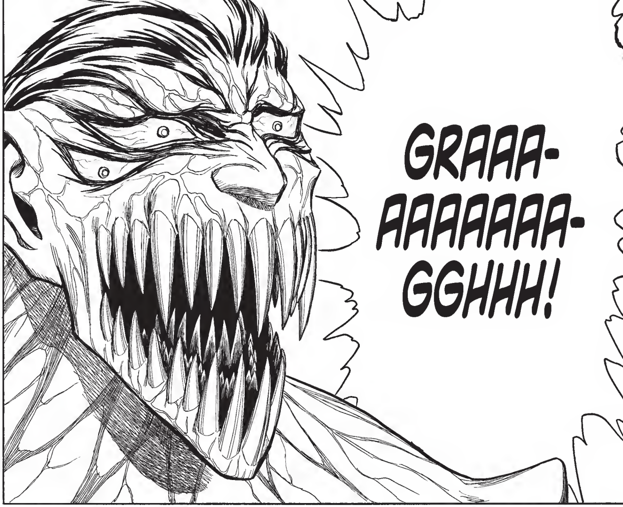

FOOM
SILENCE!!
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
WHAT? NOW YOU!?
OH!
CREAK
HURRY! GET THIS OFF YOU!
HA HA... MIGI...
QUITE A STRUGGLE.
FOOM
RRAAAGH!
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP

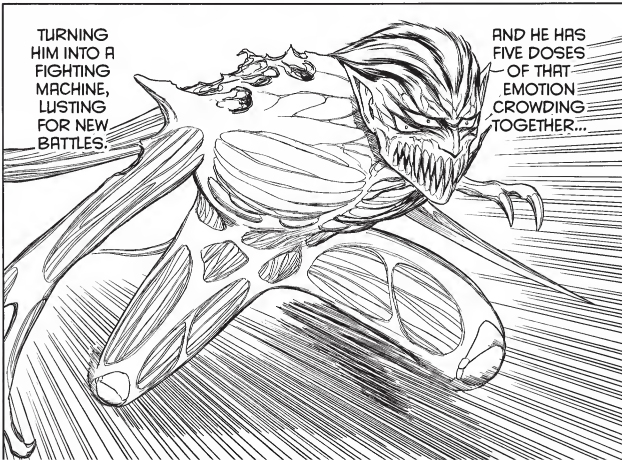

I WILL KILL YOU...ANY MOMENT NOW.
FWIP
CLANG
YOU CAN'T. I'VE TURNED THE TABLES.
WHEN I MOVED OVER HERE I SLICED UP SEVERAL OF YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO HEAL THEM BEFORE YOU CAN FIGHT!

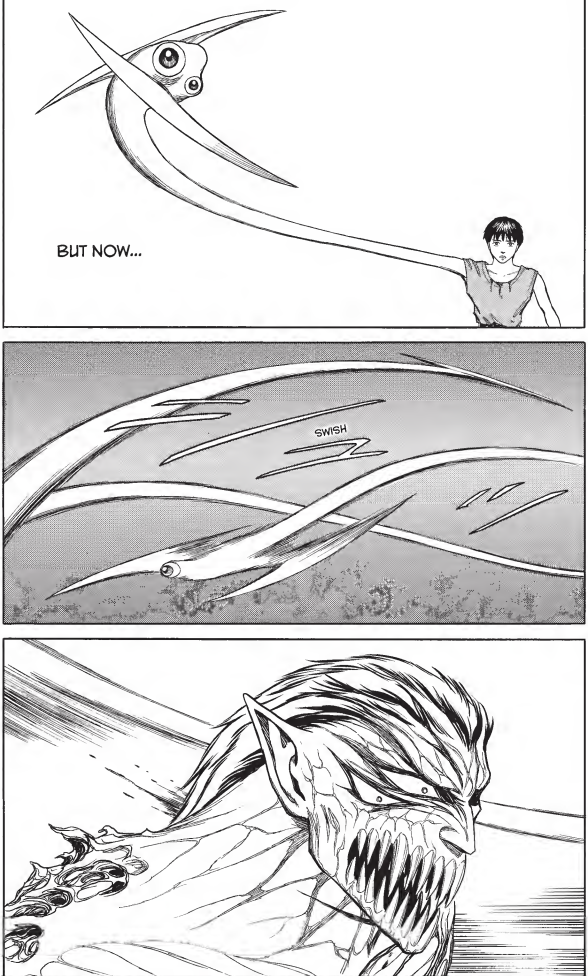

DAMN IT...HOW DARE YOU...
ゴ PLOP
ゴ PLOP
ゴ PLOP
RRRAAGH!
FOOM
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIS BODY?
REBELLION.
THE PARASITE CELLS THAT DON'T BELONG TO THE CONTROLLER SENSE DANGER, AND ARE TRYING TO RUN.
THE HEAD IS CURRENTLY IN A MASSIVE TUG OF WAR WITH THE OTHER FOUR.


POISON... !?
BECAUSE OF YOU. YOU JAMMED POISON ALL THE WAY UP INSIDE HIS BODY.
BUT WHY?
RUN, BEFORE IT GETS TO YOU!
PLOP
PLOP
POISON!
POISON!
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
SILENCE!!
FOOOM

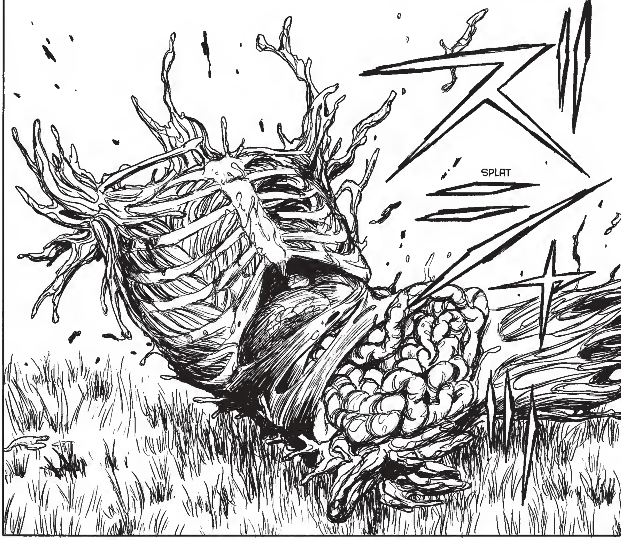

UNFORGIVABLE... UNFORGIVABLE!!
A MERE HUMAN...
HE'S VERY ANGRY...BUT NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU MANAGED TO HURT HIM.
BAM!
YIKES!
THE ANGER THAT FILLS HIM...IS A FEELING I DO NOT HAVE, SINCE I FAILED TO TAKE THE BRAIN.
IN OTHER WORDS... "KILL AND EAT THIS SPECIES."

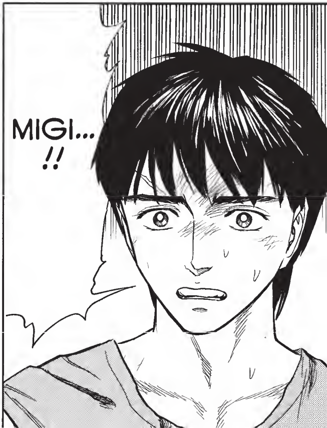

GRAAA-AAAAAAA-GGHHH!

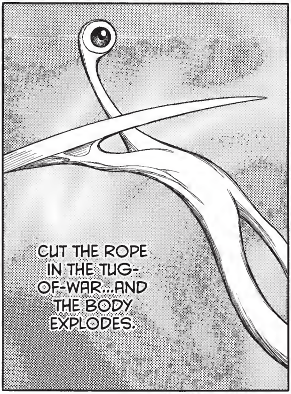

TURNING HIM INTO A FIGHTING MACHINE, LUSTING FOR NEW BATTLES.
AND HE HAS FIVE DOSES OF THAT EMOTION CROWDING TOGETHER...

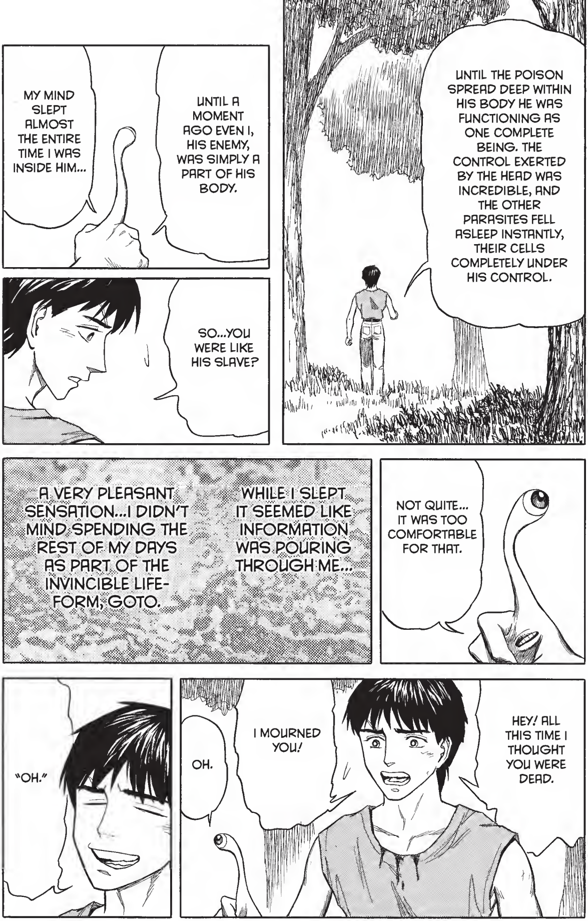

BUT NOW...
SWISH

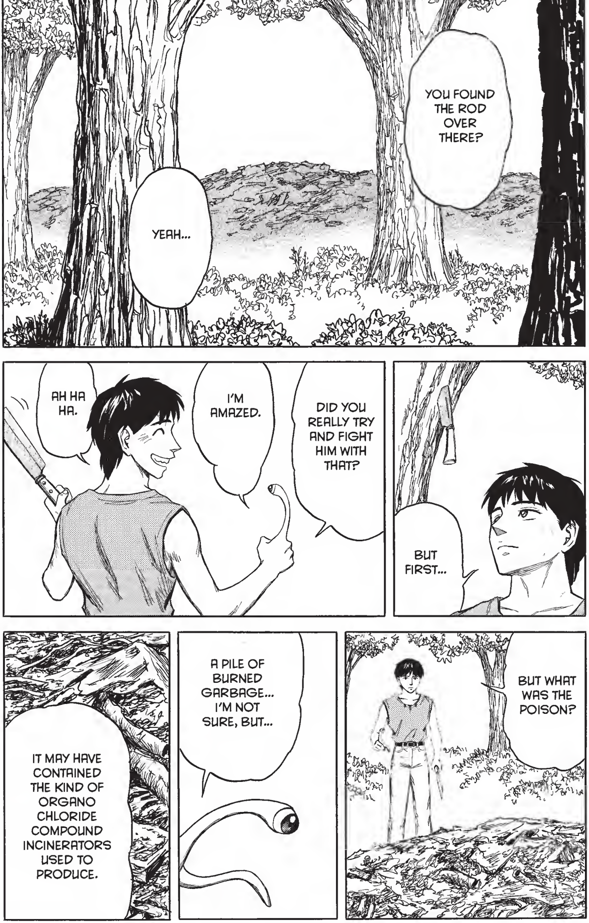
ズアン
BRAAAMMM!

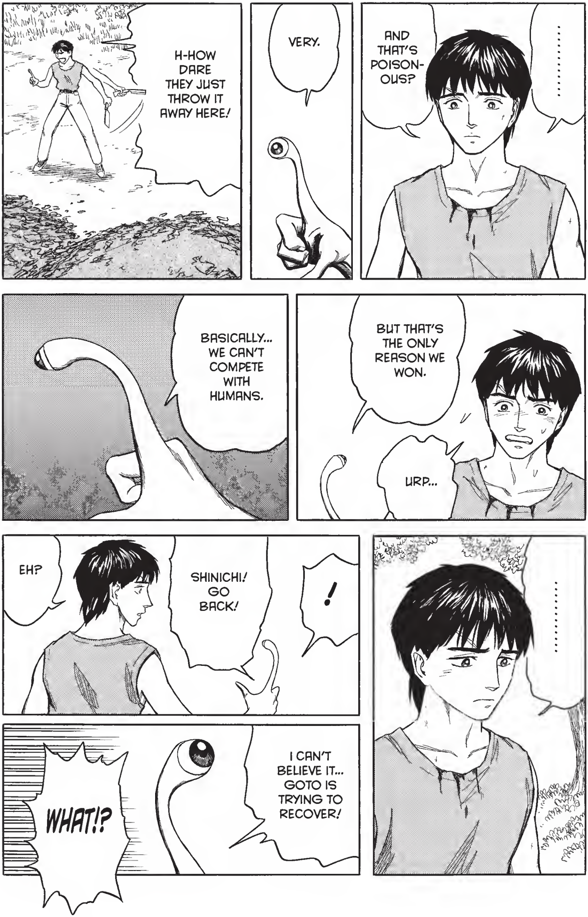

ズ
SPLAT

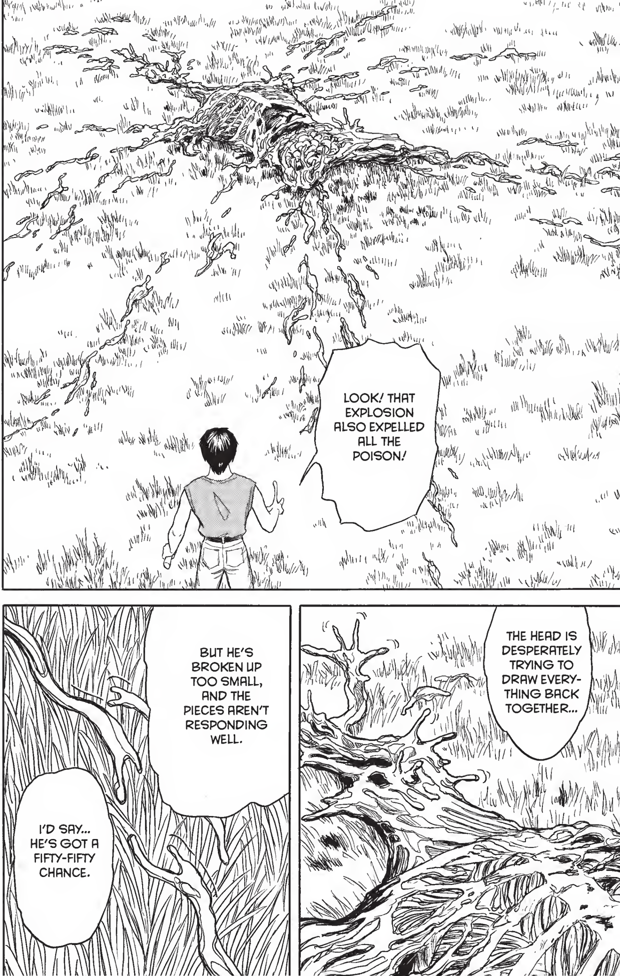

MIGI... !!

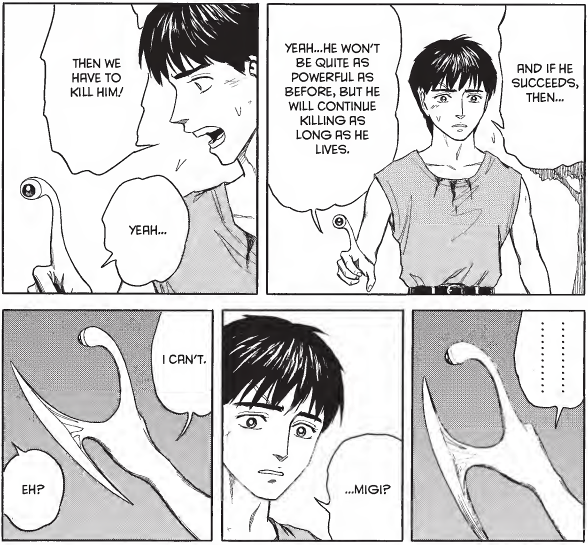

CUT THE ROPE IN THE TUG-OF-WAR...AND THE BODY EXPLODES.

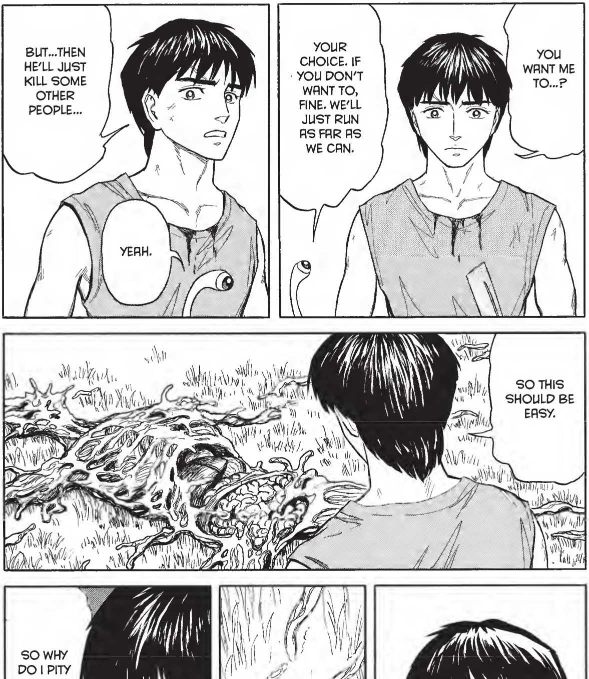

UNTIL THE POISON SPREAD DEEP WITHIN HIS BODY HE WAS FUNCTIONING AS ONE COMPLETE BEING. THE CONTROL EXERTED BY THE HEAD WAS INCREDIBLE, AND THE OTHER PARASITES FELL ASLEEP INSTANTLY, THEIR CELLS COMPLETELY UNDER HIS CONTROL.
UNTIL A MOMENT AGO EVEN I, HIS ENEMY, WAS SIMPLY A PART OF HIS BODY.
MY MIND SLEPT ALMOST THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS INSIDE HIM...
SO...YOU WERE LIKE HIS SLAVE?
NOT QUITE... IT WAS TOO COMFORTABLE FOR THAT.
WHILE I SLEPT IT SEEMED LIKE INFORMATION WAS POURING THROUGH ME...
A VERY PLEASANT SENSATION...I DIDN'T MIND SPENDING THE REST OF MY DAYS AS PART OF THE INVINCIBLE LIFE-FORM, GOTO.
HEY! ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
I MOURNED YOU!
OH.
"OH."

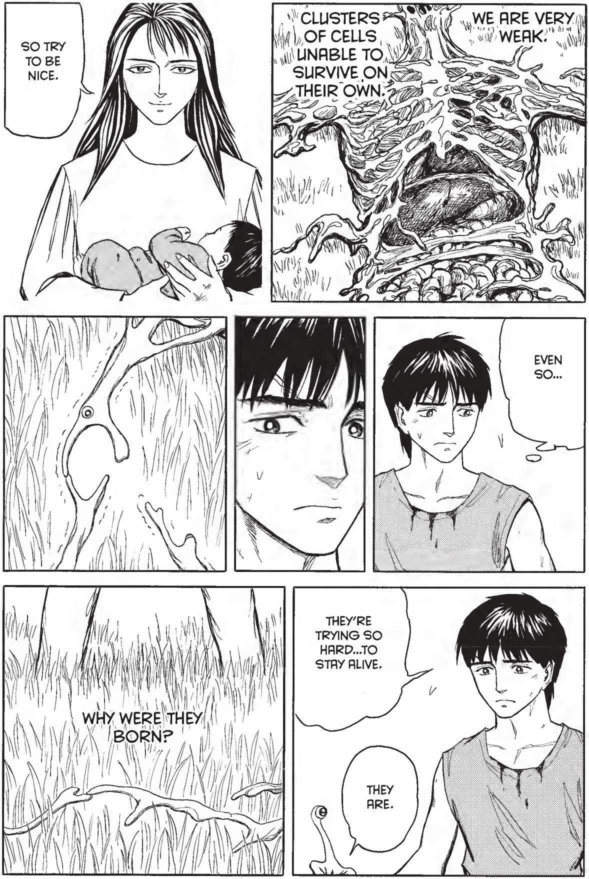

YOU FOUND THE ROD OVER THERE?
YEAH...
BUT FIRST...
DID YOU REALLY TRY AND FIGHT HIM WITH THAT?
I'M AMAZED.
AH HA HA.
BUT WHAT WAS THE POISON?
A PILE OF BURNED GARBAGE... I'M NOT SURE, BUT...
IT MAY HAVE CONTAINED THE KIND OF ORGANO CHLORIDE COMPOUND INCINERATORS USED TO PRODUCE.

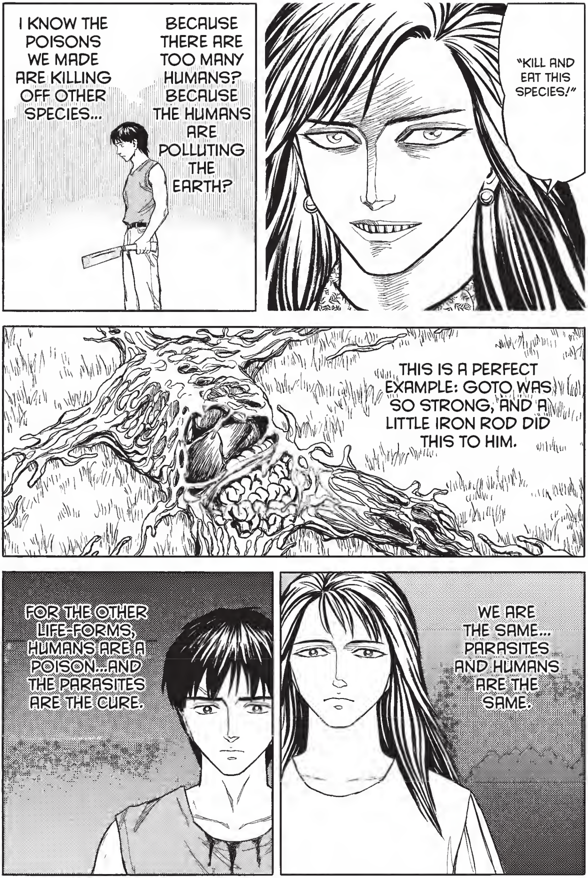

H-HOW DARE THEY JUST THROW IT AWAY HERE!
VERY.
AND THAT'S POISONOUS?
.........
BASICALLY... WE CAN'T COMPETE WITH HUMANS.
BUT THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WE WON.
URP...
EH?
SHINICHI! GO BACK!
!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... GOTO IS TRYING TO RECOVER!
WHAT!?
.........

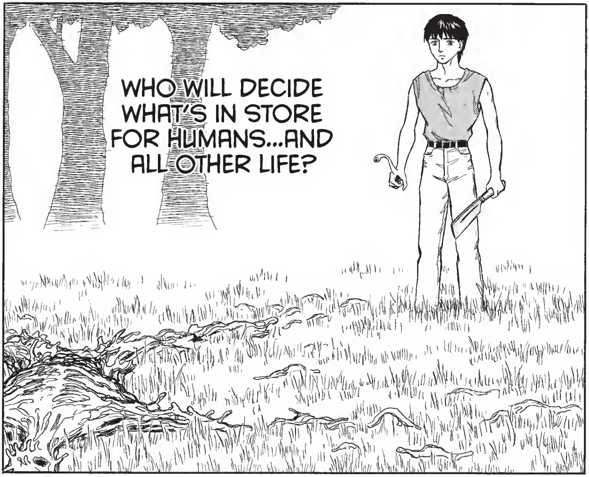

LOOK! THAT EXPLOSION ALSO EXPELLED ALL THE POISON!
THE HEAD IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO DRAW EVERYTHING BACK TOGETHER...
BUT HE'S BROKEN UP TOO SMALL, AND THE PIECES AREN'T RESPONDING WELL.
I'D SAY... HE'S GOT A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE.

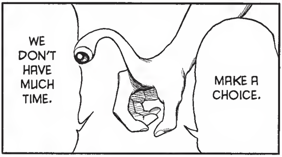

AND IF HE SUCCEEDS, THEN...
YEAH...HE WON'T BE QUITE AS POWERFUL AS BEFORE, BUT HE WILL CONTINUE KILLING AS LONG AS HE LIVES.
THEN WE HAVE TO KILL HIM!
YEAH...
I CAN'T.
EH?
...MIGI?
......
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE'RE THE SAME...AND WE'VE EVEN SHARED THE SAME BODY. FOR ME TO KILL HIM WOULD BE THE SAME AS THE HUMAN CONCEPT OF MURDER.
MM...A LITTLE LATE TO CARE, BUT I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
YOU CAN USE THAT HATCHET TO DESTROY THE EXPOSED ORGANS, AND END EVERYTHING.
IT'S UP TO YOU.

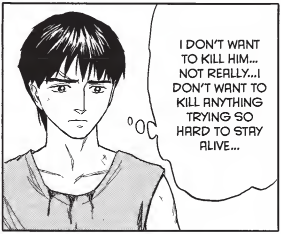

YOU WANT ME TO...?
YOUR CHOICE. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, FINE. WE'LL JUST RUN AS FAR AS WE CAN.
BUT...THEN HE'LL JUST KILL SOME OTHER PEOPLE...
YEAH.
SO THIS SHOULD BE EASY.
......
SO WHY DO I PITY HIM?

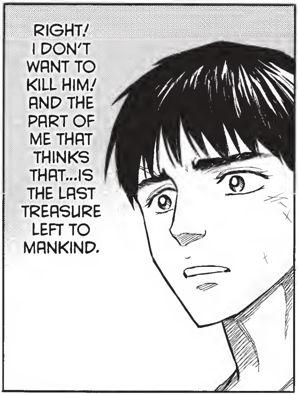

SO TRY TO BE NICE.
CLUSTERS OF CELLS UNABLE TO SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN.
WE ARE VERY WEAK.
EVEN SO...
WHY WERE THEY BORN?
THEY'RE TRYING SO HARD...TO STAY ALIVE.
THEY ARE.

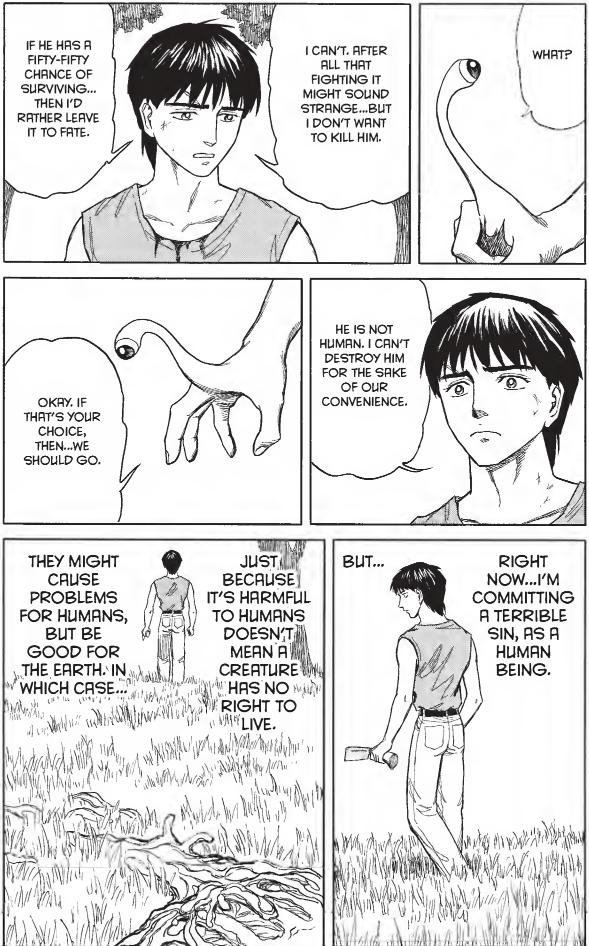

I KNOW THE POISONS WE MADE ARE KILLING OFF OTHER SPECIES...
BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY HUMANS? BECAUSE THE HUMANS ARE POLLUTING THE EARTH?
"KILL AND EAT THIS SPECIES!"
THIS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE: GOTO WAS SO STRONG, AND A LITTLE IRON ROD DID THIS TO HIM.
FOR THE OTHER LIFE-FORMS, HUMANS ARE A POISON...AND THE PARASITES ARE THE CURE.
WE ARE THE SAME... PARASITES AND HUMANS ARE THE SAME.

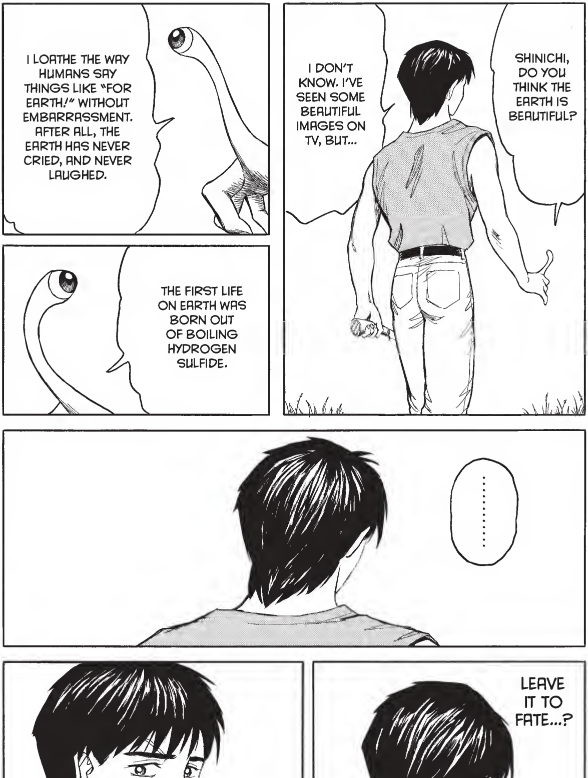

WHO WILL DECIDE WHAT'S IN STORE FOR HUMANS...AND ALL OTHER LIFE?

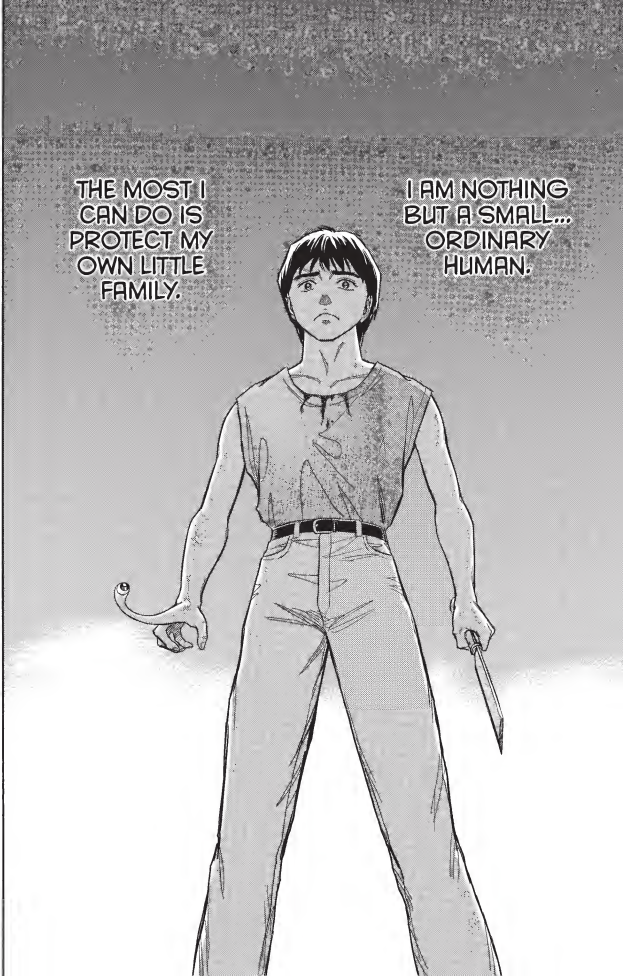

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
MAKE A CHOICE.

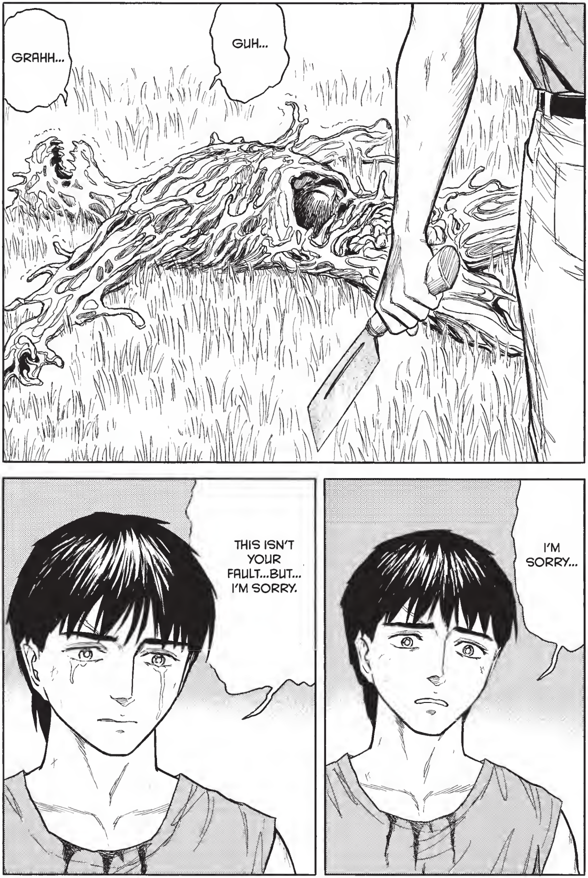

I DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM... NOT REALLY...I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYTHING TRYING SO HARD TO STAY ALIVE...

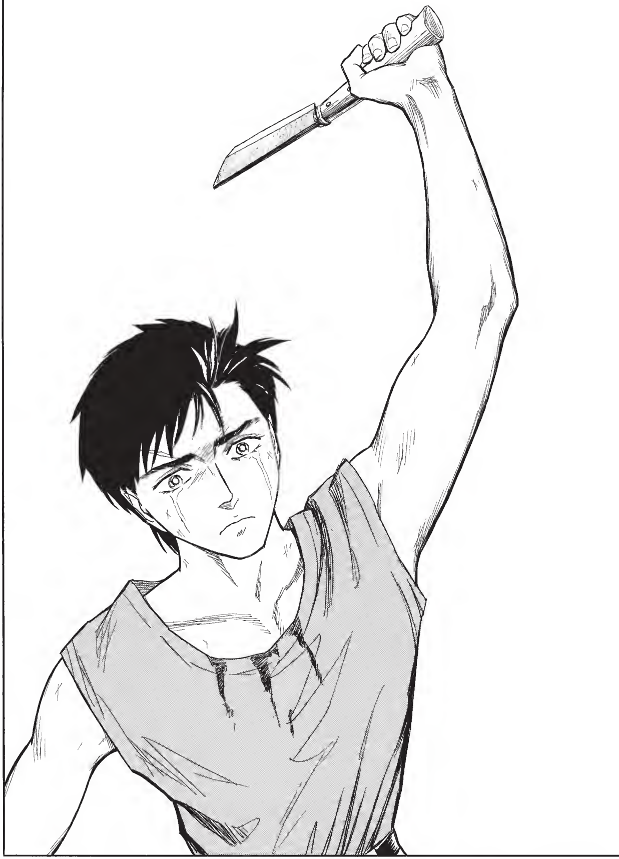

RIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM! AND THE PART OF ME THAT THINKS THAT...IS THE LAST TREASURE LEFT TO MANKIND.

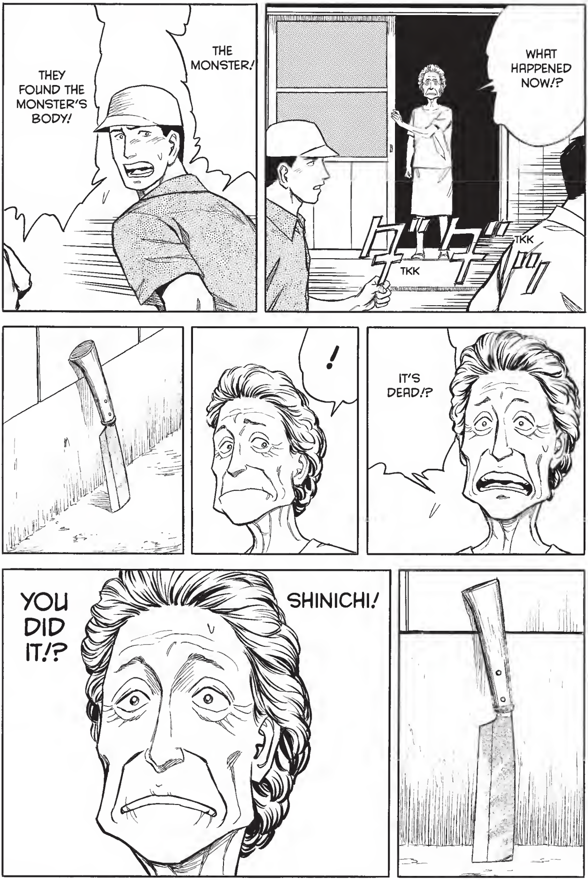

WHAT?
I CAN'T. AFTER ALL THAT FIGHTING IT MIGHT SOUND STRANGE...BUT I DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM.
IF HE HAS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF SURVIVING... THEN I'D RATHER LEAVE IT TO FATE.
HE IS NOT HUMAN. I CAN'T DESTROY HIM FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CONVENIENCE.
OKAY. IF THAT'S YOUR CHOICE, THEN...WE SHOULD GO.
THEY MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR HUMANS, BUT BE GOOD FOR THE EARTH. IN WHICH CASE...
JUST BECAUSE IT'S HARMFUL TO HUMANS DOESN'T MEAN A CREATURE HAS NO RIGHT TO LIVE.
BUT...
RIGHT NOW...I'M COMMITTING A TERRIBLE SIN, AS A HUMAN BEING.

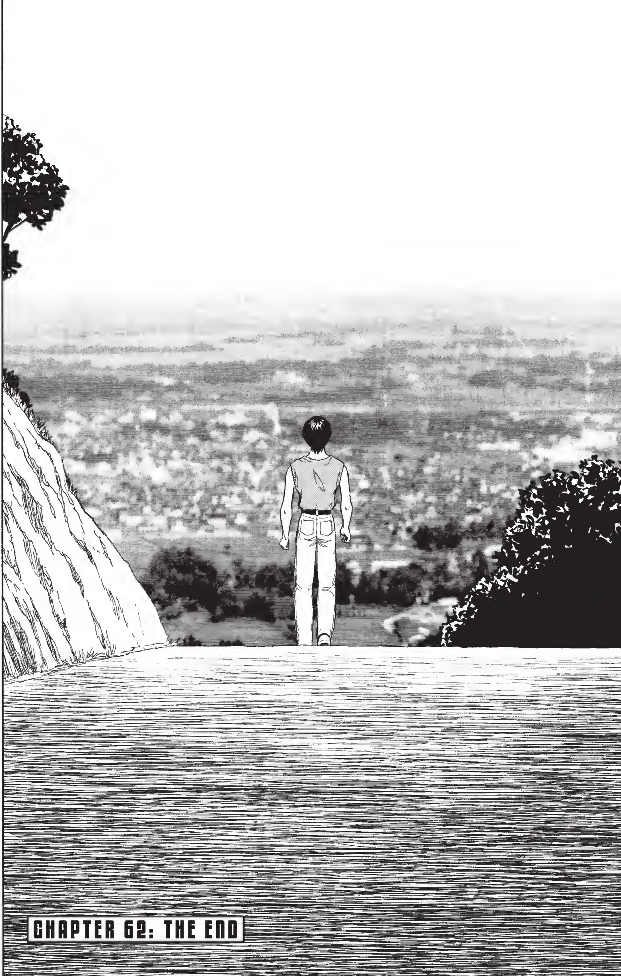

I LOATHE THE WAY HUMANS SAY THINGS LIKE "FOR EARTH!" WITHOUT EMBARRASSMENT. AFTER ALL, THE EARTH HAS NEVER CRIED, AND NEVER LAUGHED.
THE FIRST LIFE ON EARTH WAS BORN OUT OF BOILING HYDROGEN SULFIDE.
SHINICHI, DO YOU THINK THE EARTH IS BEAUTIFUL?
I DON'T KNOW. I'VE SEEN SOME BEAUTIFUL IMAGES ON TV, BUT...
……
LEAVE IT TO FATE...?


I AM NOTHING BUT A SMALL... ORDINARY HUMAN.
THE MOST I CAN DO IS PROTECT MY OWN LITTLE FAMILY.


GUH...
GRAHH...
I'M SORRY...
THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT...BUT... I'M SORRY.

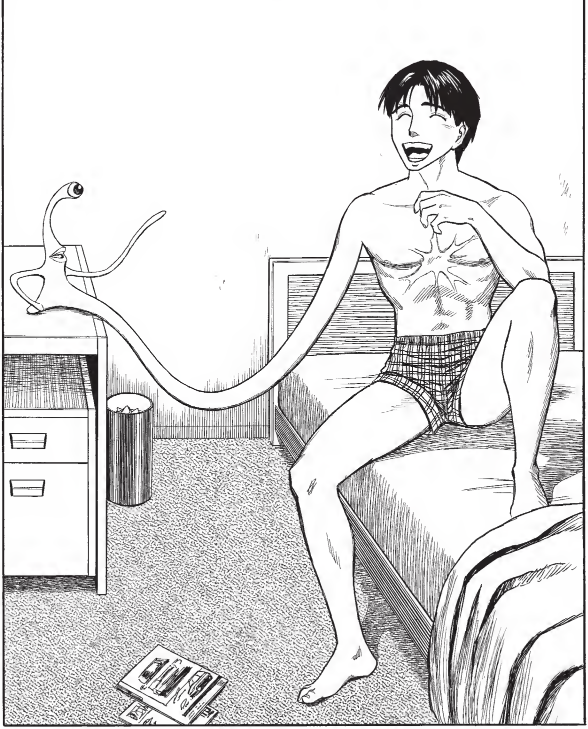


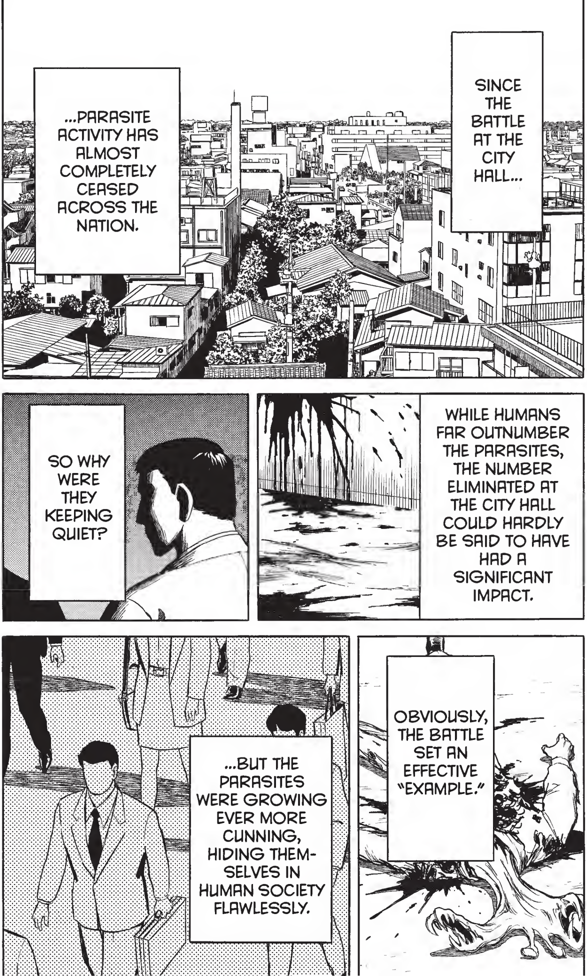

WHAT HAPPENED NOW!?
TKK
TKK
THE MONSTER!
THEY FOUND THE MONSTER'S BODY!
IT'S DEAD!?
!
SHINICHI!
YOU DID IT!?

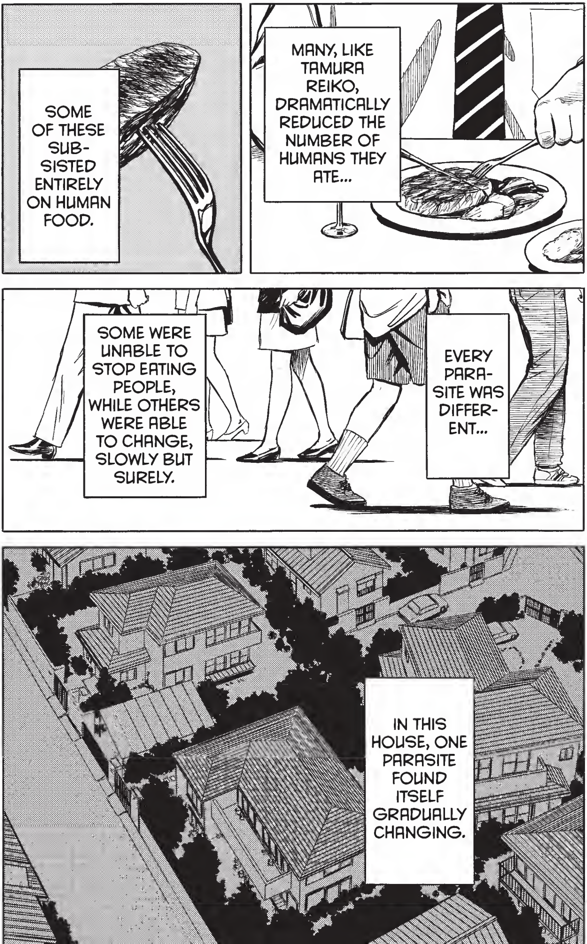


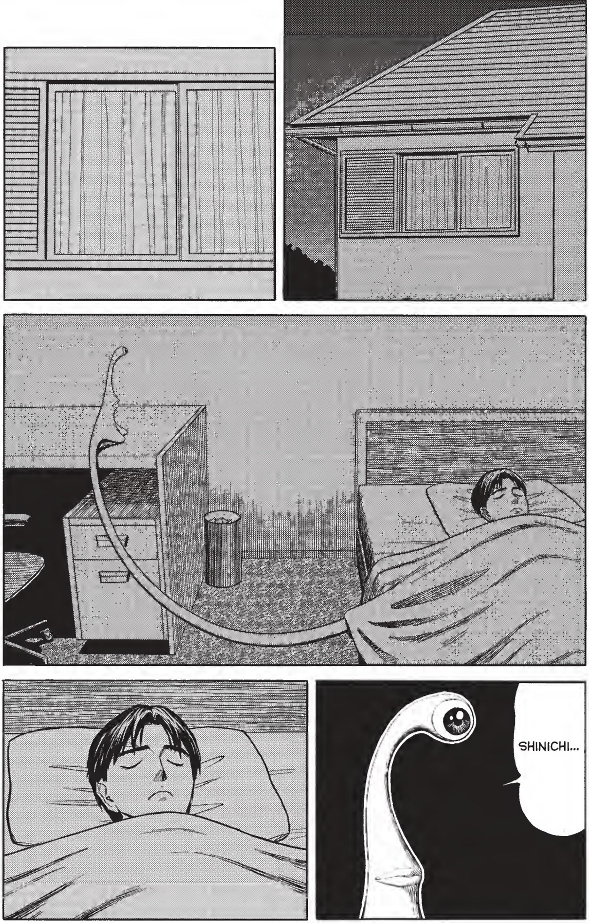
## CHAPTER 62: THE END

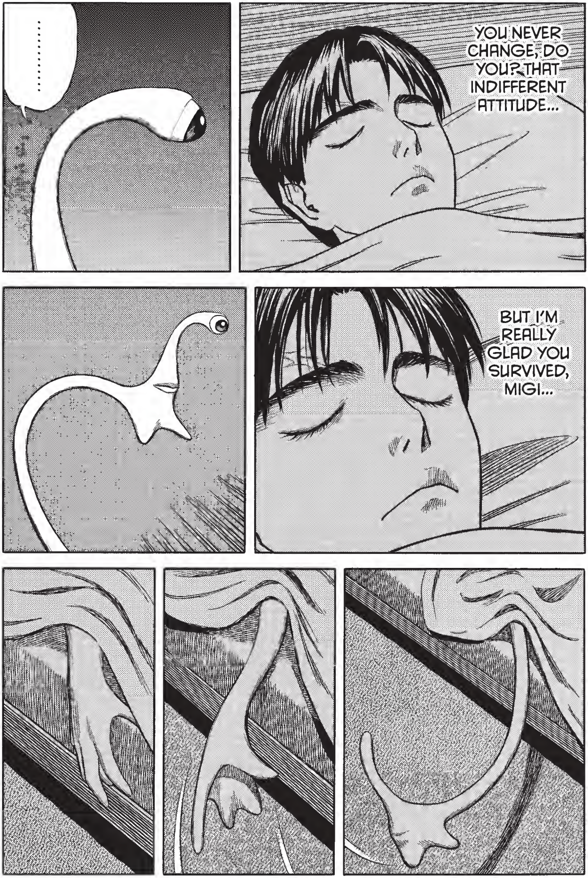
# CHAPTER 63: RETURN TO NORMAL

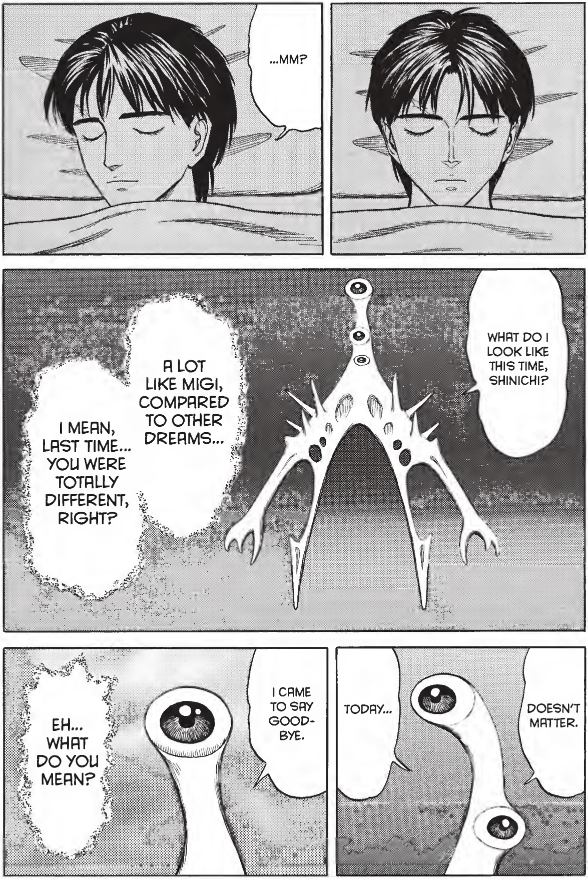


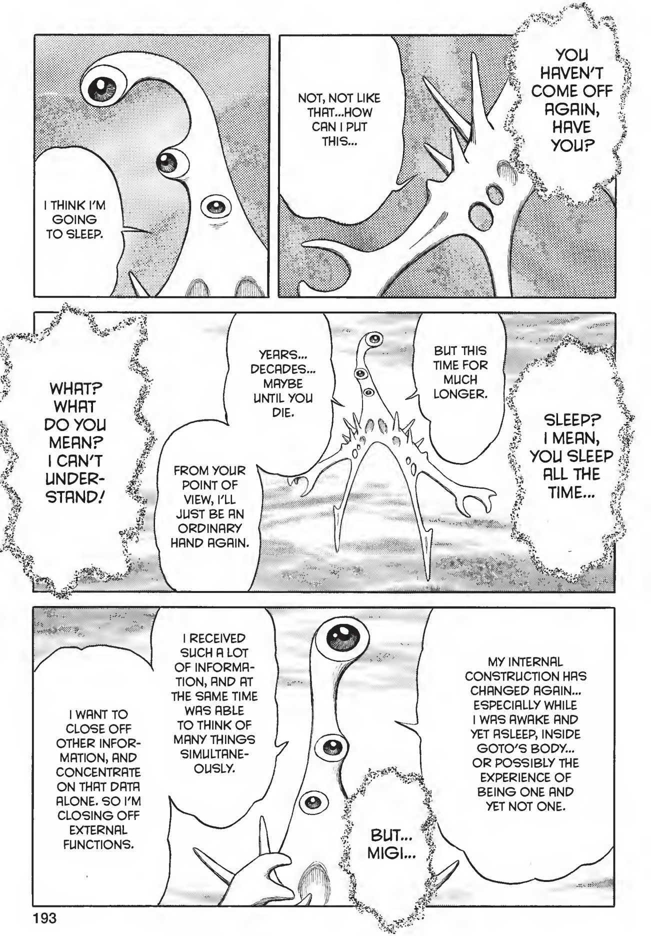

SINCE THE BATTLE AT THE CITY HALL...
...PARASITE ACTIVITY HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY CEASED ACROSS THE NATION.
WHILE HUMANS FAR OUTNUMBER THE PARASITES, THE NUMBER ELIMINATED AT THE CITY HALL COULD HARDLY BE SAID TO HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.
SO WHY WERE THEY KEEPING QUIET?
OBVIOUSLY, THE BATTLE SET AN EFFECTIVE "EXAMPLE."
...BUT THE PARASITES WERE GROWING EVER MORE CUNNING, HIDING THEMSELVES IN HUMAN SOCIETY FLAWLESSLY.

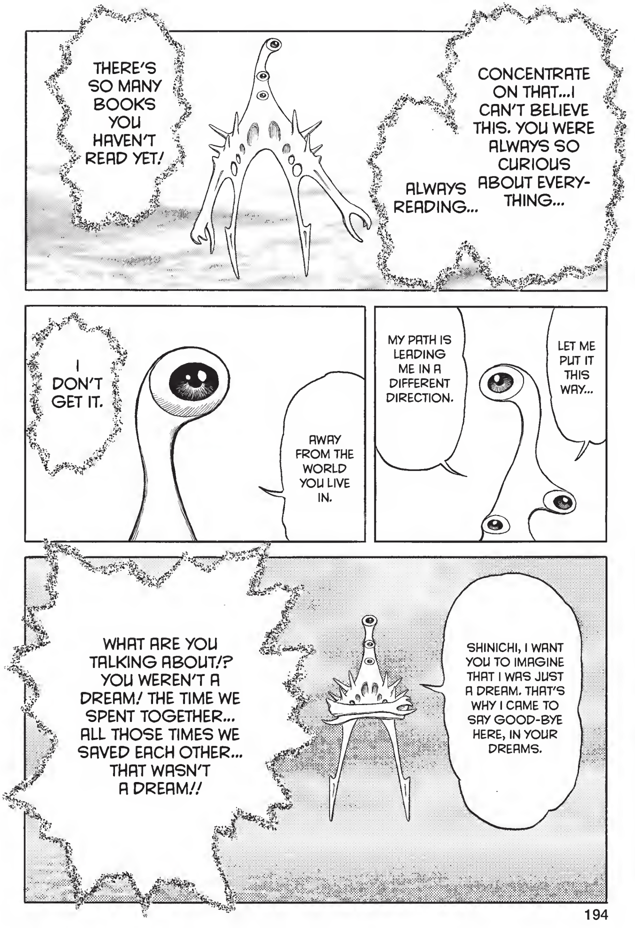

SOME OF THESE SUBSISTED ENTIRELY ON HUMAN FOOD.
MANY, LIKE TAMURA REIKO, DRAMATICALLY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF HUMANS THEY ATE...
SOME WERE UNABLE TO STOP EATING PEOPLE, WHILE OTHERS WERE ABLE TO CHANGE, SLOWLY BUT SURELY.
EVERY PARASITE WAS DIFFERENT...
IN THIS HOUSE, ONE PARASITE FOUND ITSELF GRADUALLY CHANGING.

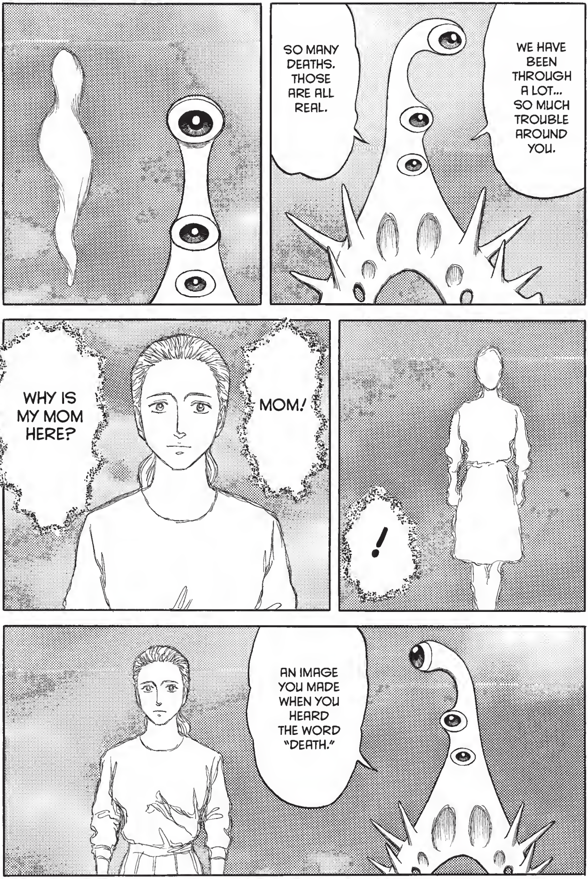

SHINICHI...

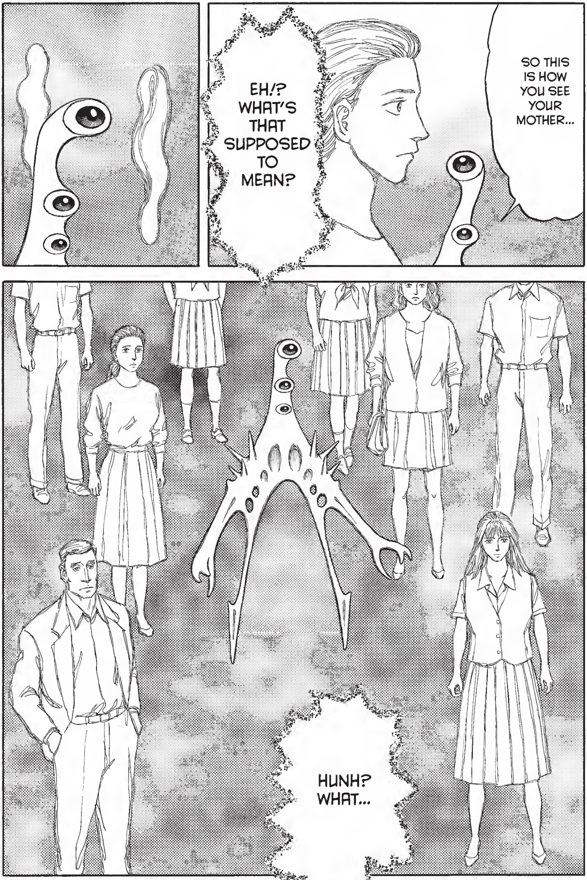

YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YOU? THAT INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE...
......
BUT I'M REALLY GLAD YOU SURVIVED, MIGI...

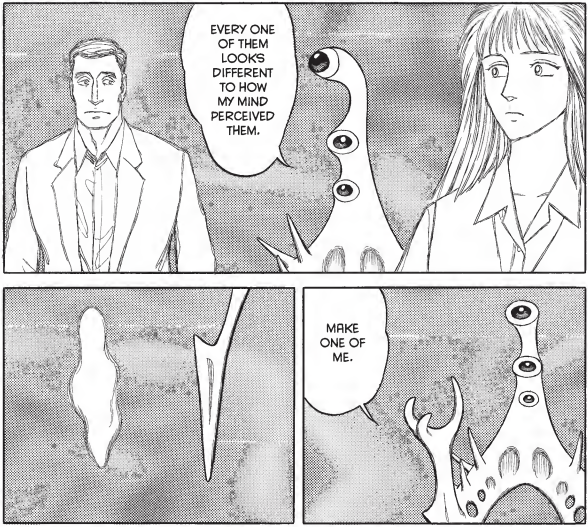

...MM?
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE THIS TIME, SHINICHI?
A LOT LIKE MIGI, COMPARED TO OTHER DREAMS...
I MEAN, LAST TIME... YOU WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT, RIGHT?
DOESN'T MATTER.
TODAY...
I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
EH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

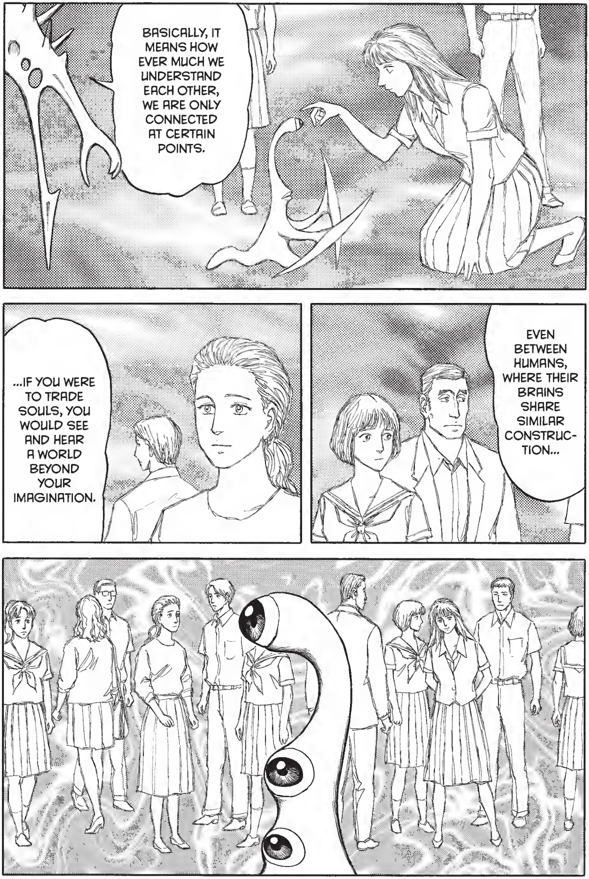

YOU HAVEN'T COME OFF AGAIN, HAVE YOU?
NOT, NOT LIKE THAT...HOW CAN I PUT THIS...
I THINK I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
SLEEP? I MEAN, YOU SLEEP ALL THE TIME...
BUT THIS TIME FOR MUCH LONGER.
YEARS... DECADES... MAYBE UNTIL YOU DIE.
FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, I'LL JUST BE AN ORDINARY HAND AGAIN.
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND!
MY INTERNAL CONSTRUCTION HAS CHANGED AGAIN... ESPECIALLY WHILE I WAS AWAKE AND YET ASLEEP, INSIDE GOTO'S BODY... OR POSSIBLY THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING ONE AND YET NOT ONE.
BUT... MIGI...
I RECEIVED SUCH A LOT OF INFORMATION, AND AT THE SAME TIME WAS ABLE TO THINK OF MANY THINGS SIMULTANEOUSLY.
I WANT TO CLOSE OFF OTHER INFORMATION, AND CONCENTRATE ON THAT DATA ALONE. SO I'M CLOSING OFF EXTERNAL FUNCTIONS.

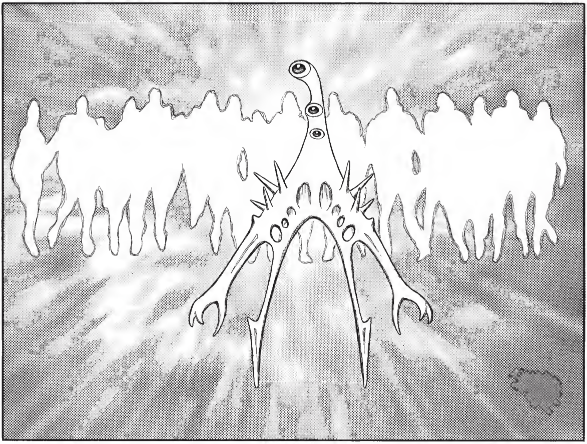

CONCENTRATE ON THAT...I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. YOU WERE ALWAYS SO CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING...
ALWAYS READING...
THERE'S SO MANY BOOKS YOU HAVEN'T READ YET!
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...
MY PATH IS LEADING ME IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.
AWAY FROM THE WORLD YOU LIVE IN.
I DON'T GET IT.
SHINICHI, I WANT YOU TO IMAGINE THAT I WAS JUST A DREAM. THAT'S WHY I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE HERE, IN YOUR DREAMS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? YOU WEREN'T A DREAM! THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER... ALL THOSE TIMES WE SAVED EACH OTHER... THAT WASN'T A DREAM!!

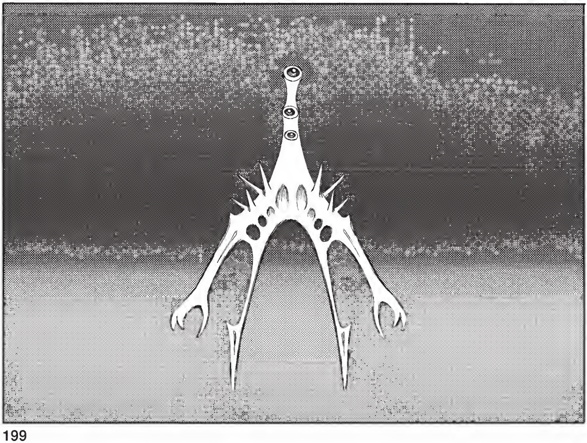

WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT... SO MUCH TROUBLE AROUND YOU.
SO MANY DEATHS. THOSE ARE ALL REAL.
!
MOM!
WHY IS MY MOM HERE?
AN IMAGE YOU MADE WHEN YOU HEARD THE WORD "DEATH."

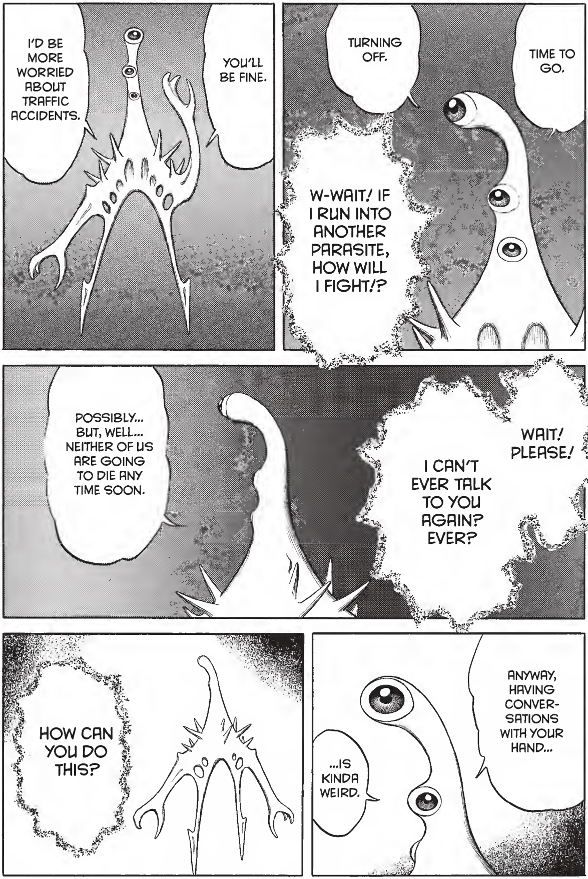

SO THIS IS HOW YOU SEE YOUR MOTHER...
EH!? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HUNH? WHAT...

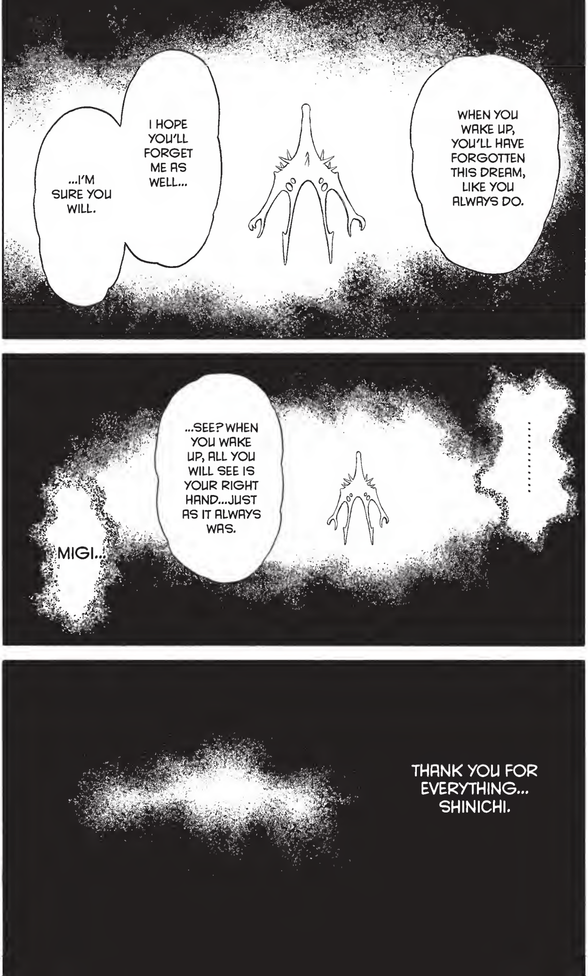

EVERY ONE OF THEM LOOKS DIFFERENT TO HOW MY MIND PERCEIVED THEM.
MAKE ONE OF ME.
HMM? MIGI...
HMM...

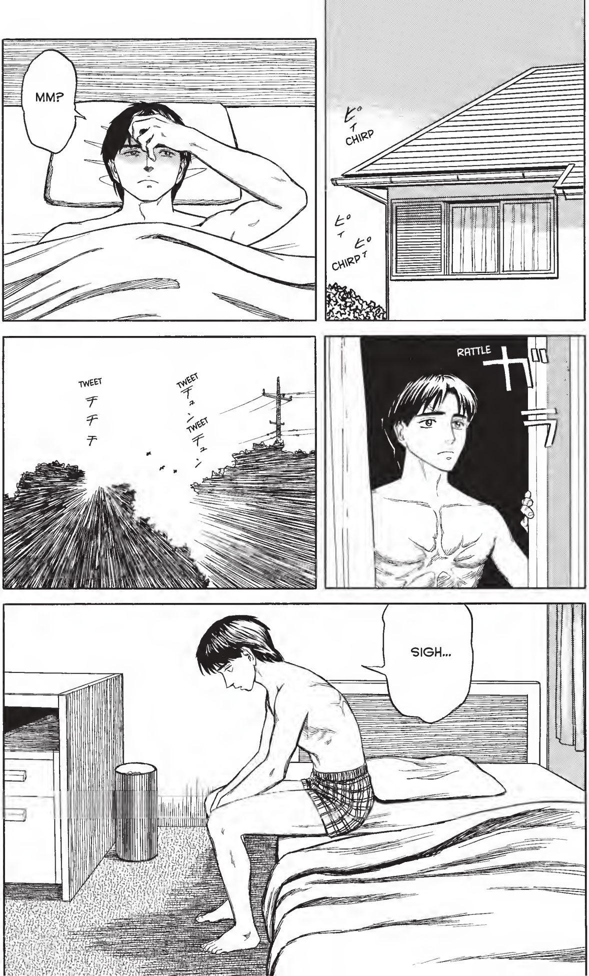

BASICALLY, IT MEANS HOW EVER MUCH WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, WE ARE ONLY CONNECTED AT CERTAIN POINTS.
EVEN BETWEEN HUMANS, WHERE THEIR BRAINS SHARE SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION...
...IF YOU WERE TO TRADE SOULS, YOU WOULD SEE AND HEAR A WORLD BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION.

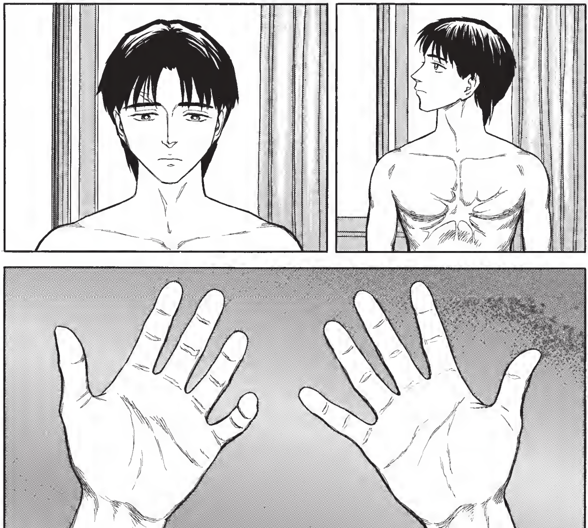


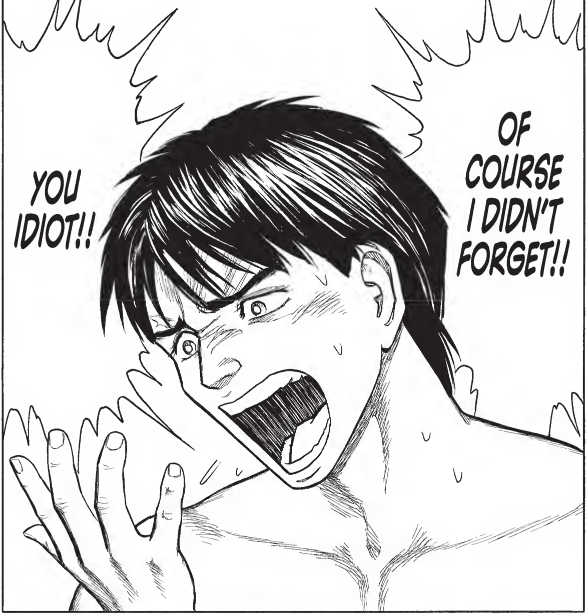


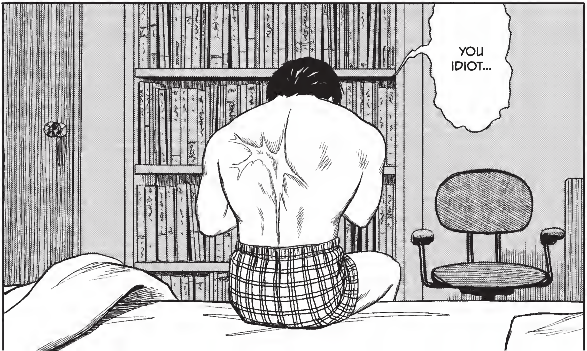

YOU'LL BE FINE.
I'D BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.
TIME TO GO.
TURNING OFF.
W-WAIT! IF I RUN INTO ANOTHER PARASITE, HOW WILL I FIGHT!?
WAIT! PLEASE!
I CAN'T EVER TALK TO YOU AGAIN? EVER?
POSSIBLY... BUT, WELL... NEITHER OF US ARE GOING TO DIE ANY TIME SOON.
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?
ANYWAY, HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR HAND...
...IS KINDA WEIRD.

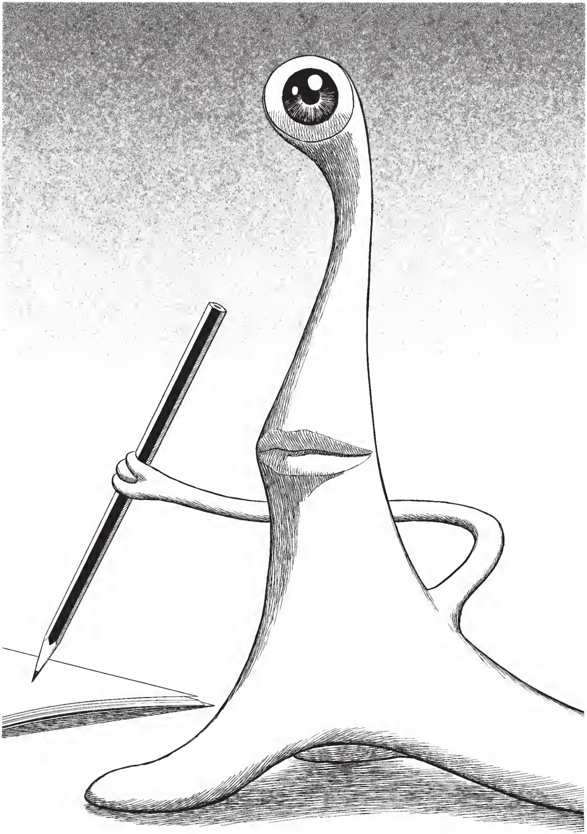

WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU'LL HAVE FORGOTTEN THIS DREAM, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGET ME AS WELL...
...I'M SURE YOU WILL.
......
...SEE? WHEN YOU WAKE UP, ALL YOU WILL SEE IS YOUR RIGHT HAND...JUST AS IT ALWAYS WAS.
MIGI...
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING... SHINICHI.

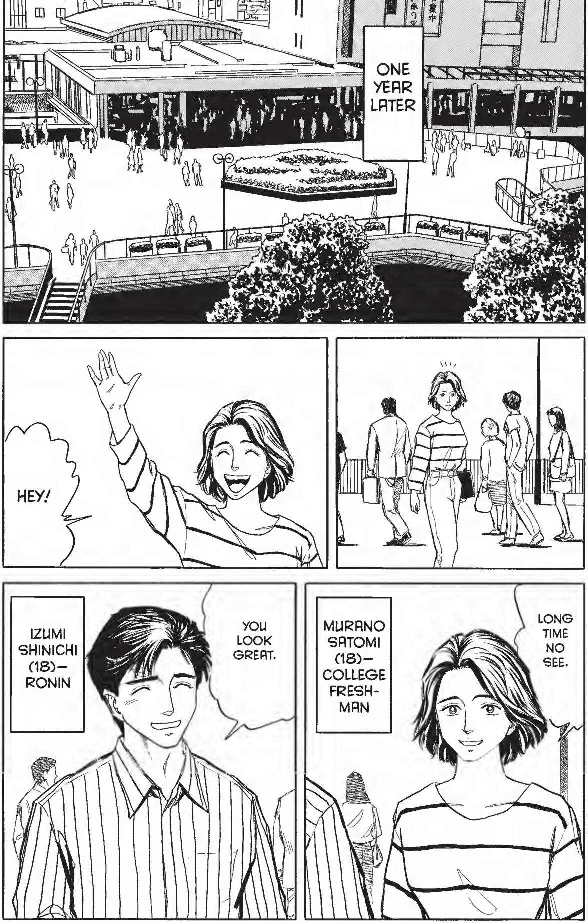

ピィ
CHIRP
ピィ ピィ
CHIRP
MM?
RATTLE
ガラ
TWEET
チチチ
TWEET
チュン
TWEET
チュン
SIGH...

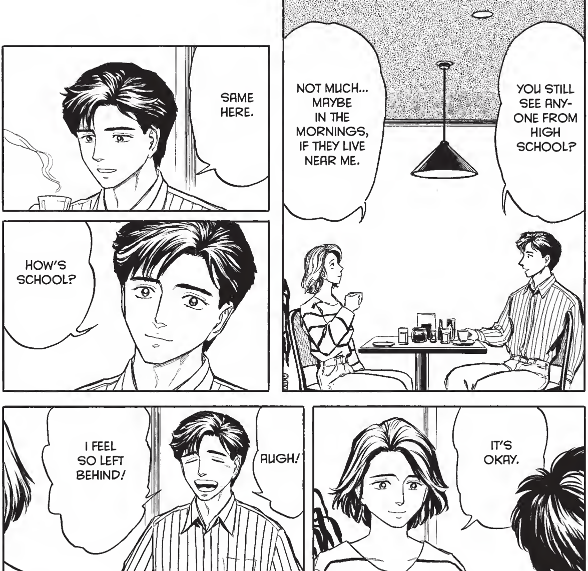


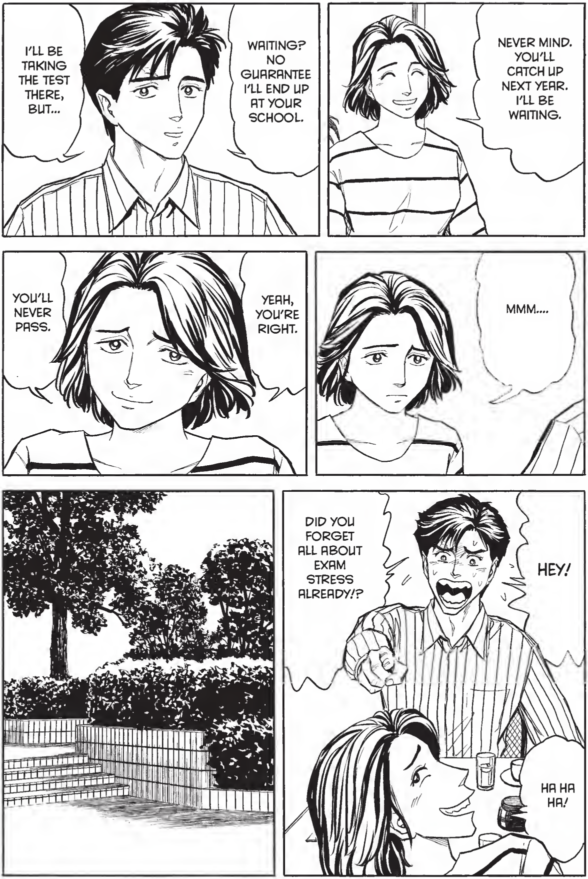

OF COURSE I DIDN'T FORGET!!
YOU IDIOT!!

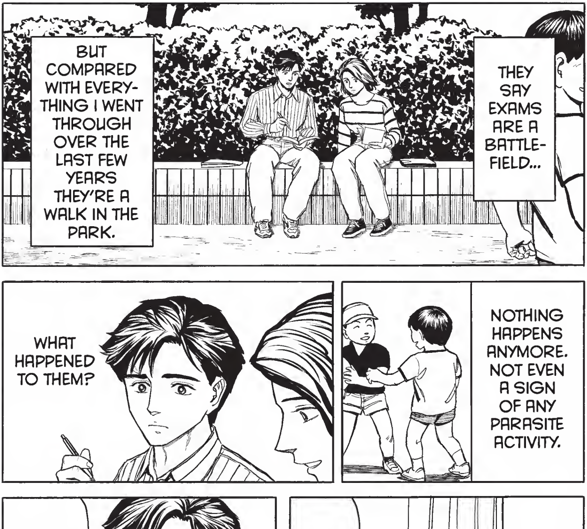

YOU IDIOT...

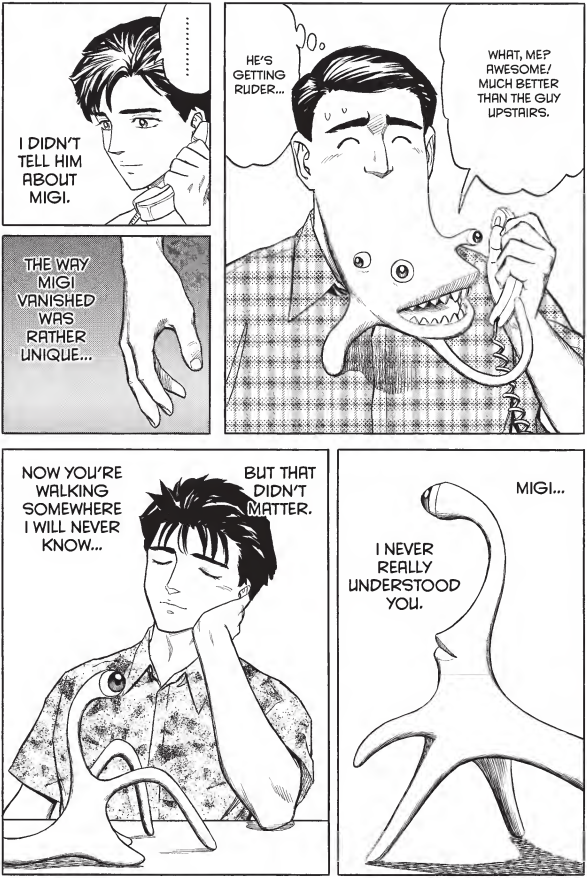


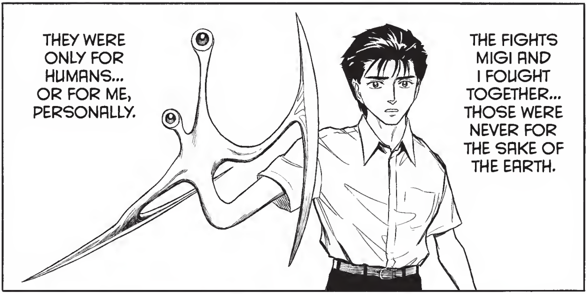

ONE YEAR LATER
HEY!
IZUMI SHINICHI (18)— RONIN
YOU LOOK GREAT.
MURANO SATOMI (18)— COLLEGE FRESHMAN
LONG TIME NO SEE.

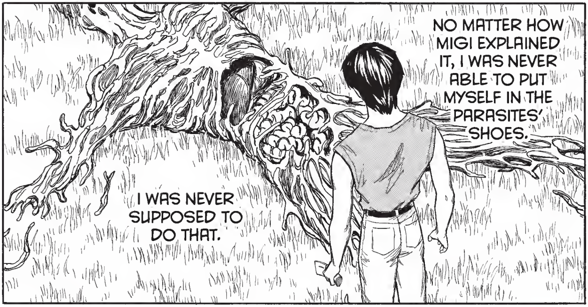

YOU STILL SEE ANYONE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?
NOT MUCH... MAYBE IN THE MORNINGS, IF THEY LIVE NEAR ME.
SAME HERE.
HOW'S SCHOOL?
IT'S OKAY.
AUGH!
I FEEL SO LEFT BEHIND!
BUT THAT'S...
MM?

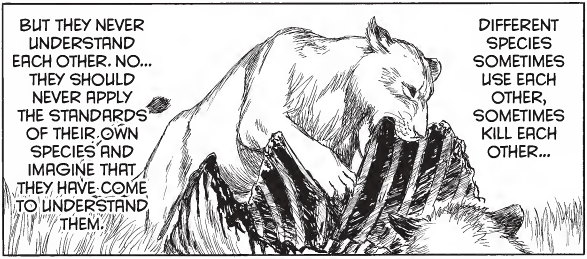

NEVER MIND. YOU'LL CATCH UP NEXT YEAR. I'LL BE WAITING.
WAITING? NO GUARANTEE I'LL END UP AT YOUR SCHOOL.
I'LL BE TAKING THE TEST THERE, BUT...
MMM....
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'LL NEVER PASS.
HEY!
DID YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT EXAM STRESS ALREADY!?
HA HA HA!

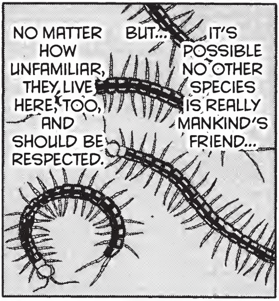

THEY SAY EXAMS ARE A BATTLEFIELD...
BUT COMPARED WITH EVERYTHING I WENT THROUGH OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THEY'RE A WALK IN THE PARK.
NOTHING HAPPENS ANYMORE. NOT EVEN A SIGN OF ANY PARASITE ACTIVITY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
I CALLED UDA-SAN DOWN IN IZU ONCE.
HOW YOU DOING?
FINE. YOU SOUND HAPPY.
HOW'S JAW DOING?

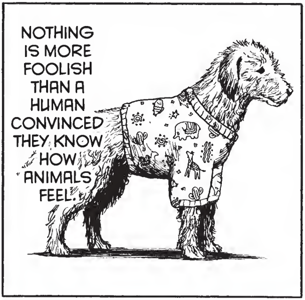

……
I DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT MIGI.
WHAT, ME? AWESOME! MUCH BETTER THAN THE GUY UPSTAIRS.
HE'S GETTING RUDER...
THE WAY MIGI VANISHED WAS RATHER UNIQUE...
BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER.
NOW YOU'RE WALKING SOMEWHERE I WILL NEVER KNOW...
MIGI...
I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD YOU.

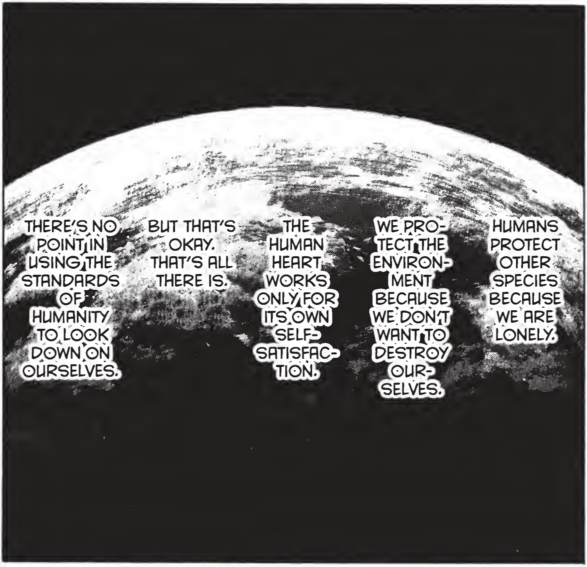

THE FIGHTS MIGI AND I FOUGHT TOGETHER... THOSE WERE NEVER FOR THE SAKE OF THE EARTH.
THEY WERE ONLY FOR HUMANS... OR FOR ME, PERSONALLY.

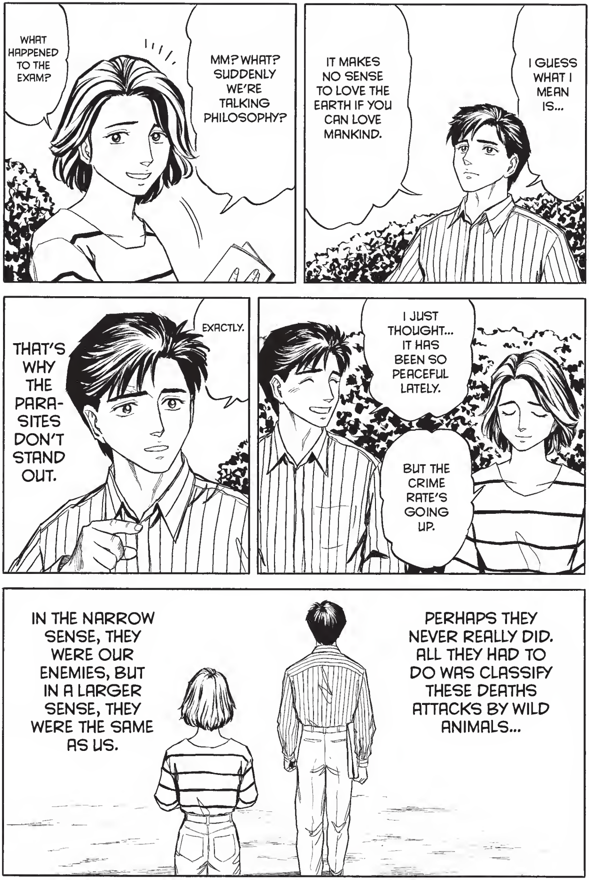

NO MATTER HOW MIGI EXPLAINED IT, I WAS NEVER ABLE TO PUT MYSELF IN THE PARASITES' SHOES.
I WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO DO THAT.

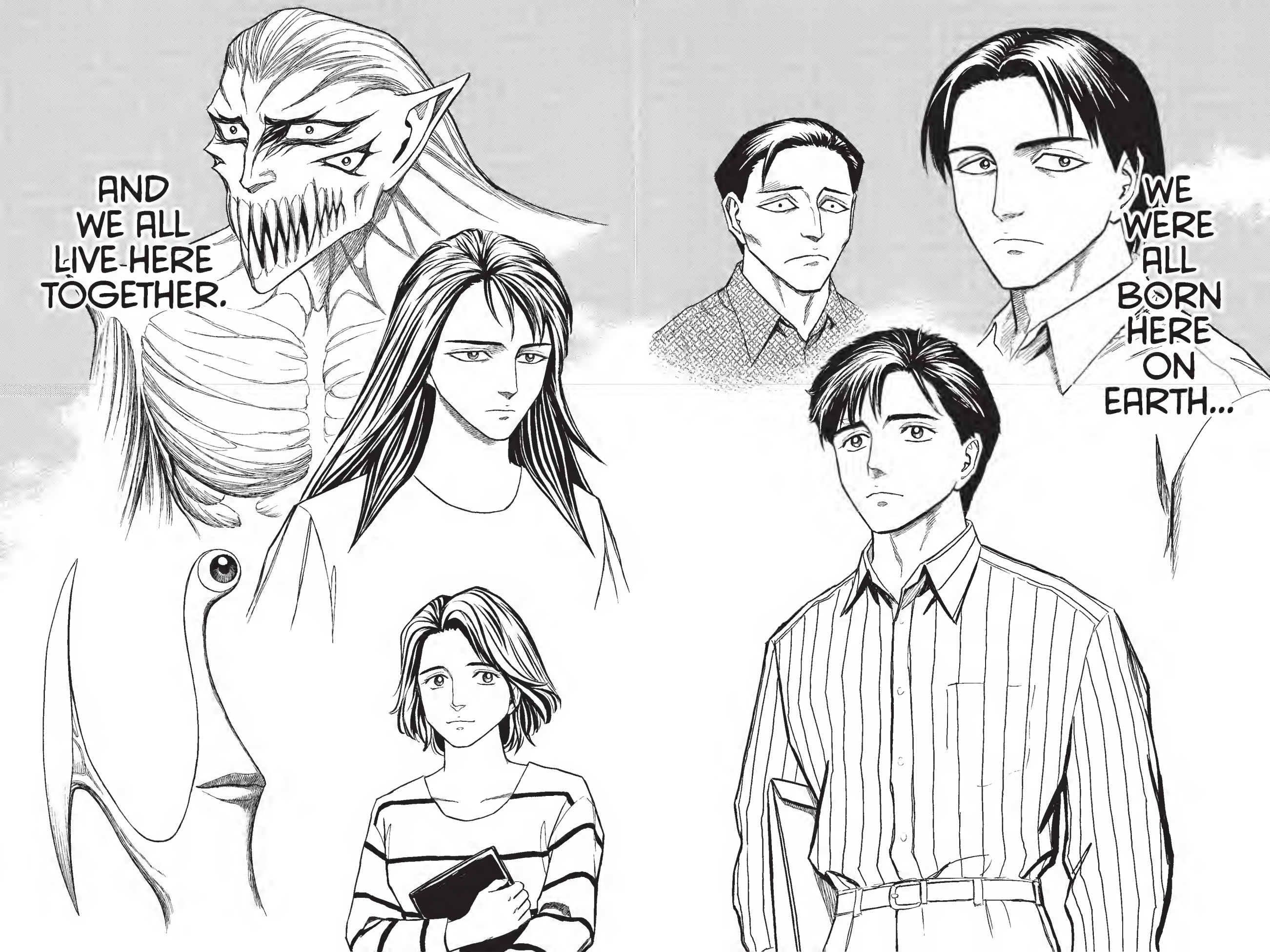

DIFFERENT SPECIES SOMETIMES USE EACH OTHER, SOMETIMES KILL EACH OTHER...
BUT THEY NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. NO... THEY SHOULD NEVER APPLY THE STANDARDS OF THEIR OWN SPECIES AND IMAGINE THAT THEY HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

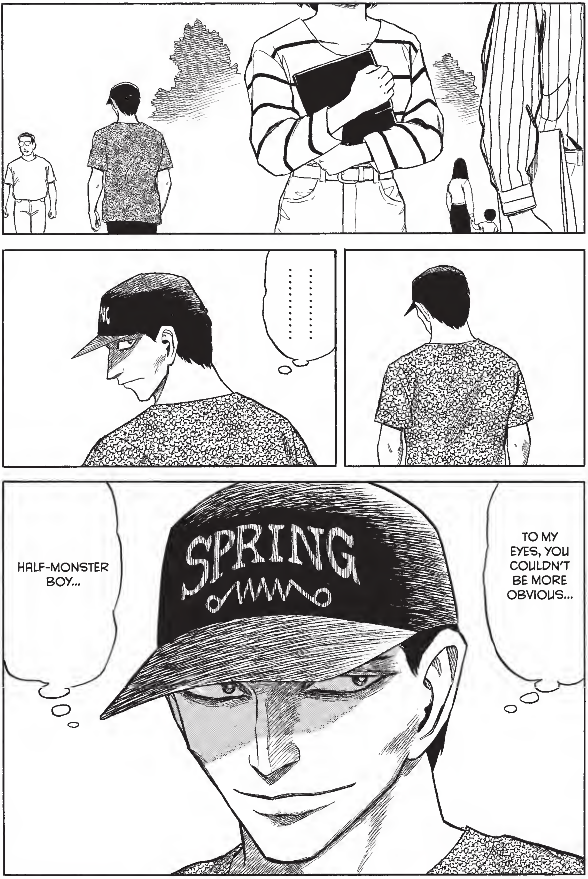

NO MATTER HOW UNFAMILIAR, THEY LIVE HERE, TOO, AND SHOULD BE RESPECTED.
BUT...
IT'S POSSIBLE NO OTHER SPECIES IS REALLY MANKIND'S FRIEND...

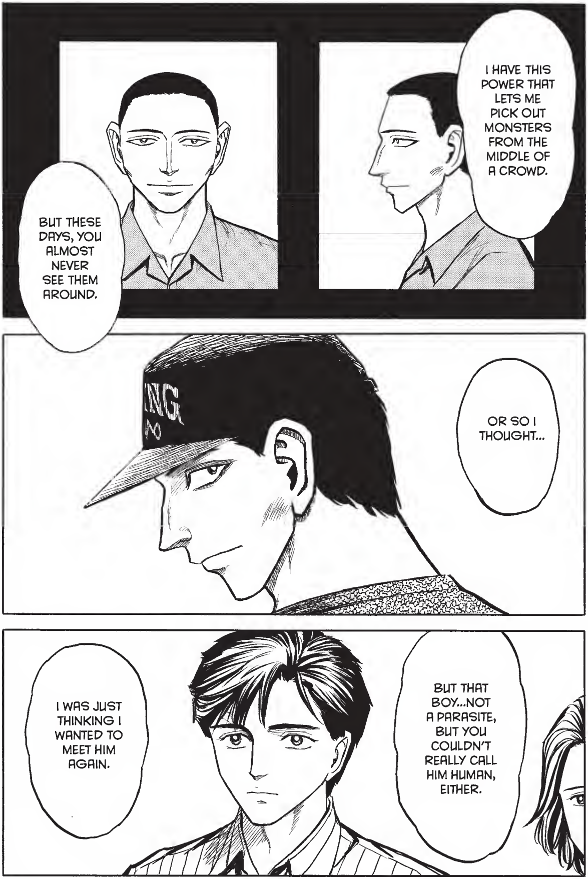

NOTHING IS MORE FOOLISH THAN A HUMAN CONVINCED THEY KNOW HOW ANIMALS FEEL.


HUMANS PROTECT OTHER SPECIES BECAUSE WE ARE LONELY.
WE PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO DESTROY OURSELVES.
THE HUMAN HEART WORKS ONLY FOR ITS OWN SELF-SATISFACTION.
BUT THAT'S OKAY. THAT'S ALL THERE IS.
THERE'S NO POINT IN USING THE STANDARDS OF HUMANITY TO LOOK DOWN ON OURSELVES.

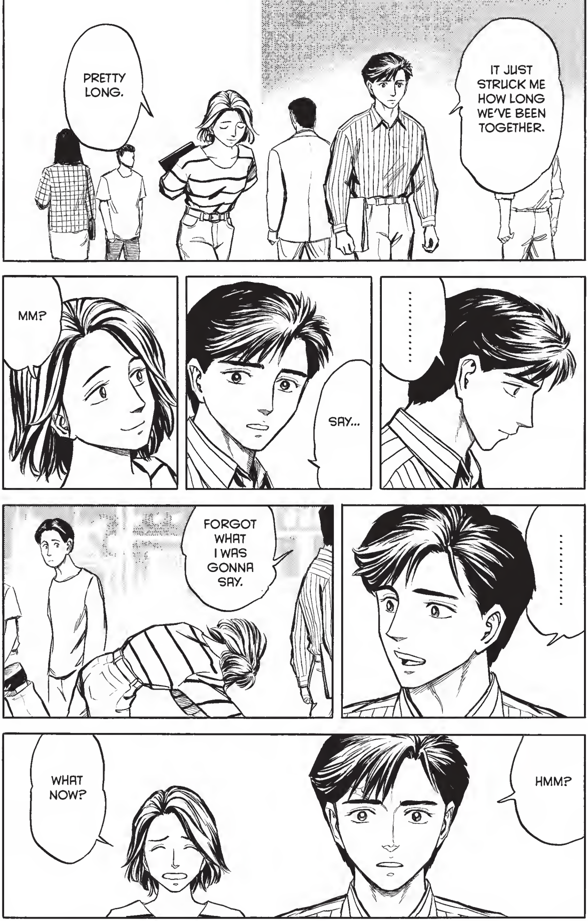

I GUESS WHAT I MEAN IS...
IT MAKES NO SENSE TO LOVE THE EARTH IF YOU CAN LOVE MANKIND.
MM? WHAT? SUDDENLY WE'RE TALKING PHILOSOPHY?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EXAM?
I JUST THOUGHT... IT HAS BEEN SO PEACEFUL LATELY.
BUT THE CRIME RATE'S GOING UP.
EXACTLY.
THAT'S WHY THE PARASITES DON'T STAND OUT.
PERHAPS THEY NEVER REALLY DID. ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS CLASSIFY THESE DEATHS ATTACKS BY WILD ANIMALS...
IN THE NARROW SENSE, THEY WERE OUR ENEMIES, BUT IN A LARGER SENSE, THEY WERE THE SAME AS US.

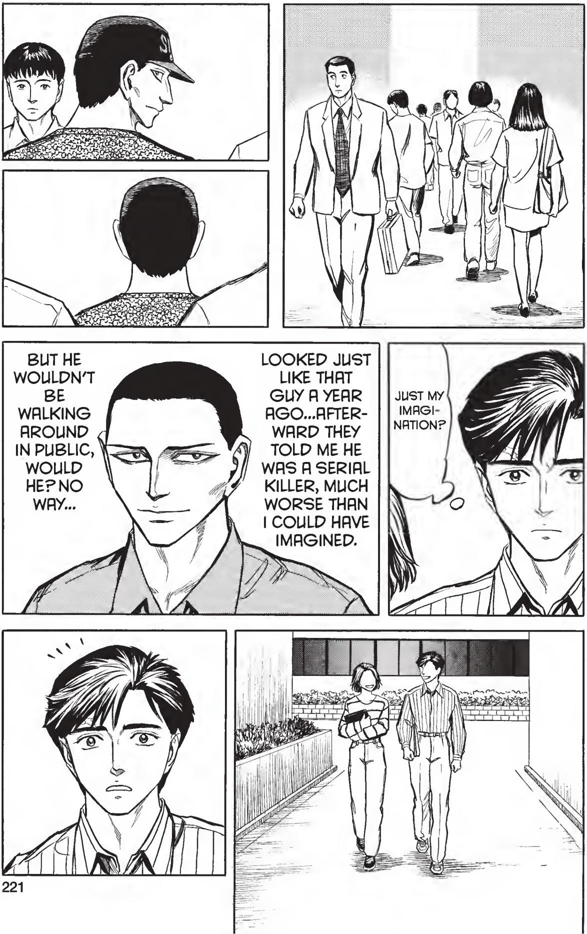

WE WERE ALL BORN HERE ON EARTH...
AND WE ALL LIVE HERE TOGETHER.

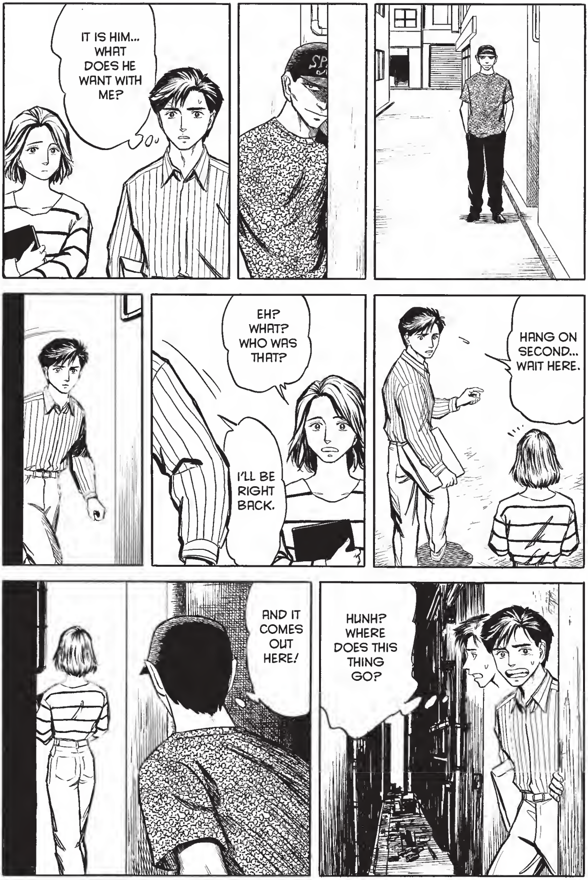

……
TO MY EYES, YOU COULDN'T BE MORE OBVIOUS...
SPRING
HALF-MONSTER BOY...

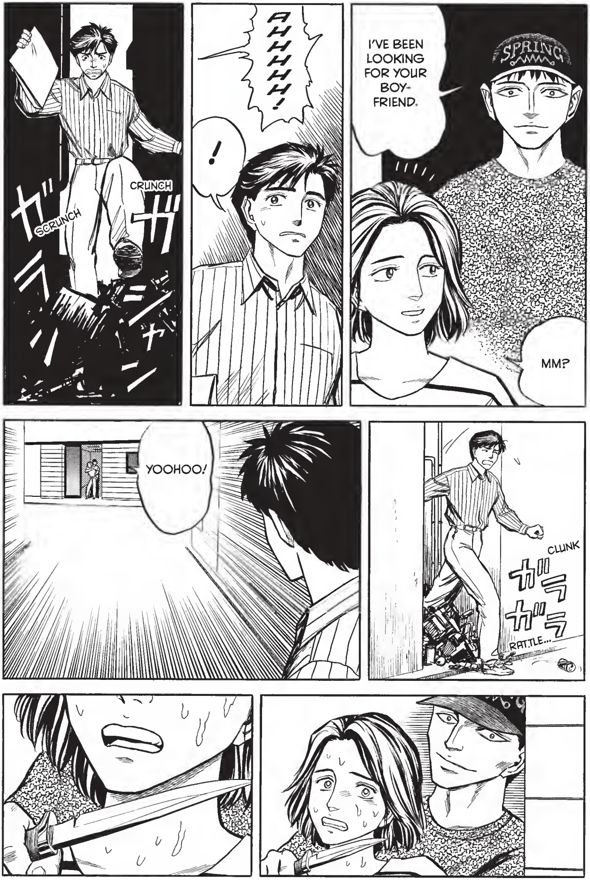

I HAVE THIS POWER THAT LETS ME PICK OUT MONSTERS FROM THE MIDDLE OF A CROWD.
BUT THESE DAYS, YOU ALMOST NEVER SEE THEM AROUND.
OR SO I THOUGHT...
BUT THAT BOY...NOT A PARASITE, BUT YOU COULDN'T REALLY CALL HIM HUMAN, EITHER.
I WAS JUST THINKING I WANTED TO MEET HIM AGAIN.

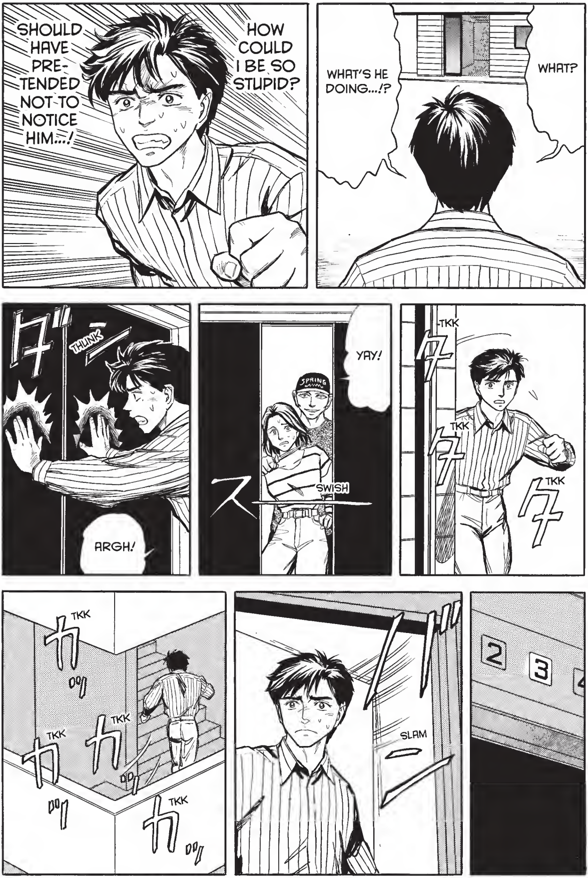
# FINAL CHAPTER: YOU

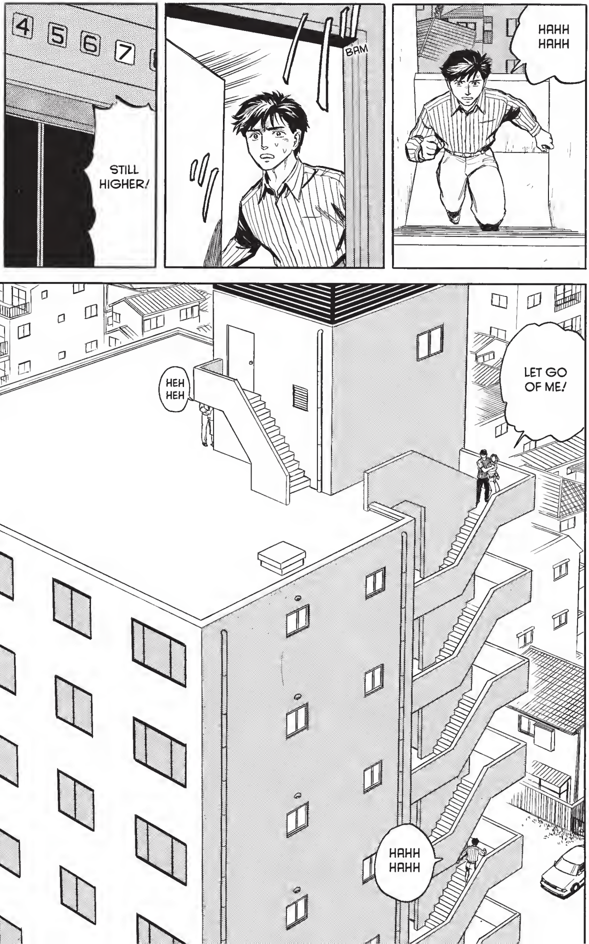

IT JUST STRUCK ME HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER.
PRETTY LONG.
……
SAY...
MM?
……
FORGOT WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY.
HMM?
WHAT NOW?

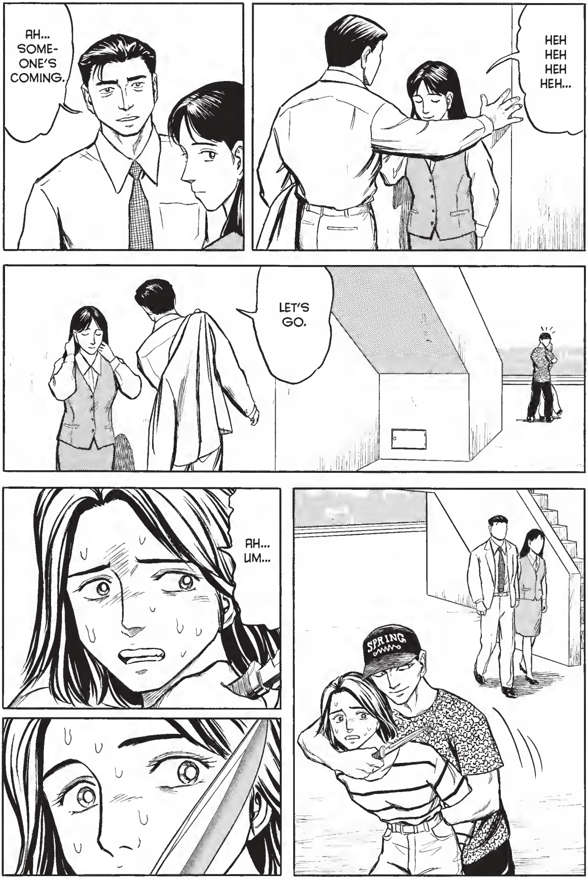

JUST MY IMAGINATION?
LOOKED JUST LIKE THAT GUY A YEAR AGO...AFTERWARD THEY TOLD ME HE WAS A SERIAL KILLER, MUCH WORSE THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.
BUT HE WOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND IN PUBLIC, WOULD HE? NO WAY...

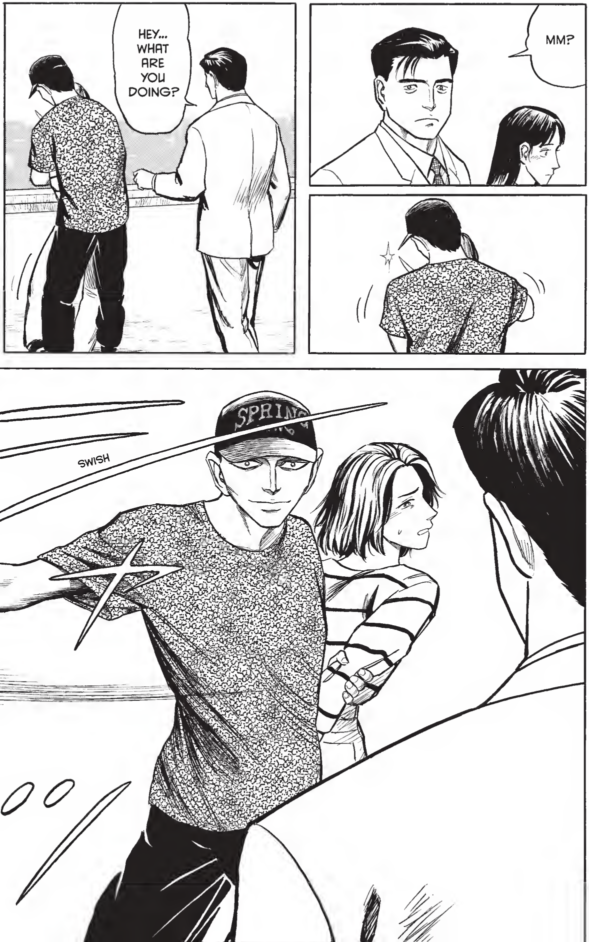

IT IS HIM... WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME?
HANG ON SECOND... WAIT HERE.
EH? WHAT? WHO WAS THAT?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
HUNH? WHERE DOES THIS THING GO?
AND IT COMES OUT HERE!

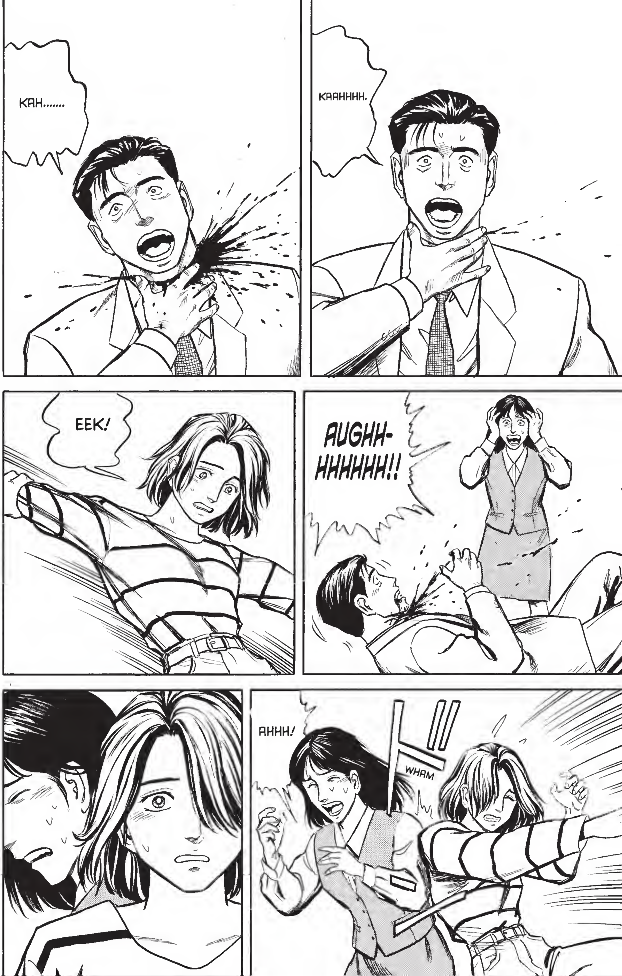

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOUR BOY-FRIEND.
MM?
AHHHHHH!
!
CRUNCH
SCRUNCH
CLUNK
ガラガラ
RATTLE...
YOOHOO!

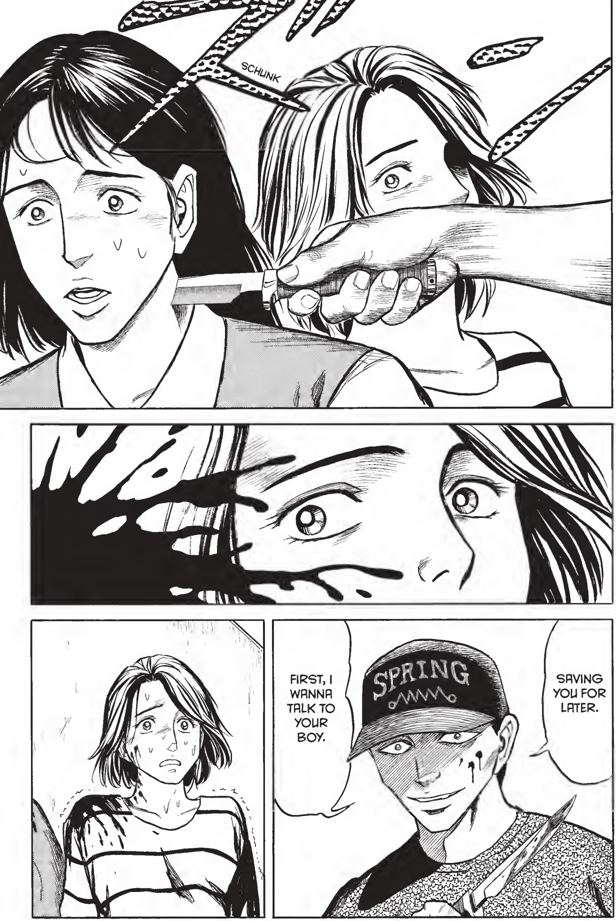

WHAT?
WHAT'S HE DOING...!?
HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID?
SHOULD HAVE PRE-TENDED NOT TO NOTICE HIM...!
TKK
TKK
TKK
YAY!
SWISH
THUNK
ARGH!
2
3
SLAM
TKK
TKK
TKK
TKK

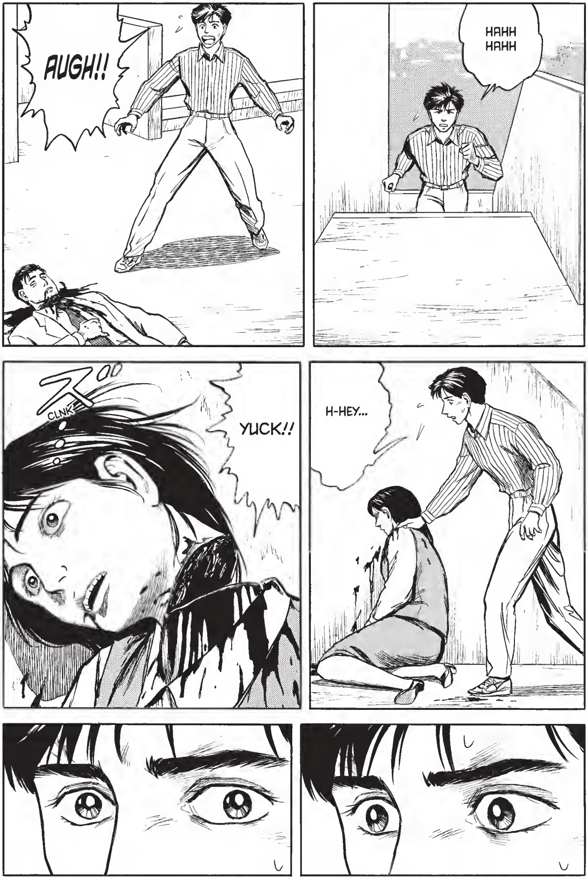

HAHH HAHH
BAM
STILL HIGHER!
LET GO OF ME!
HEH HEH
HAHH HAHH

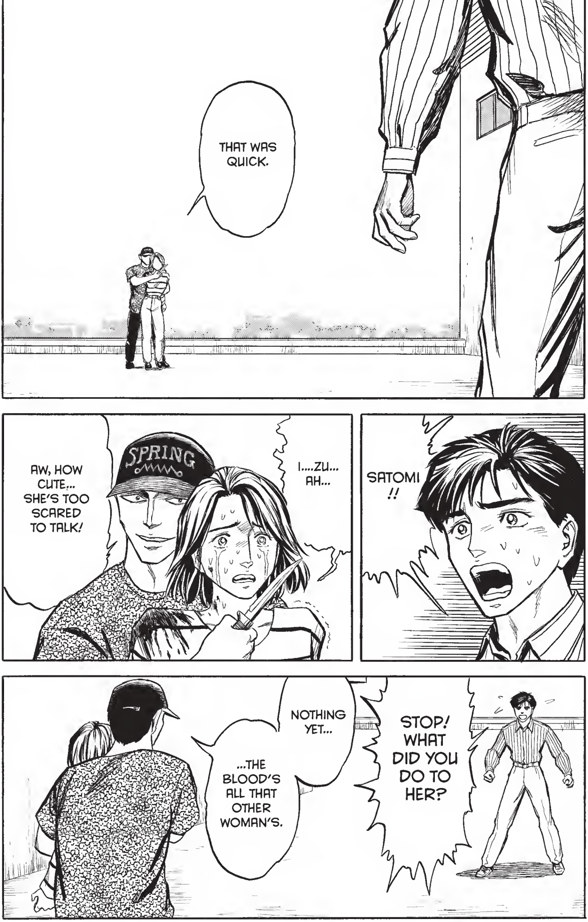

HEH HEH HEH HEH...
AH... SOME-ONE'S COMING.
LET'S GO.
SPRING
AH... UM...

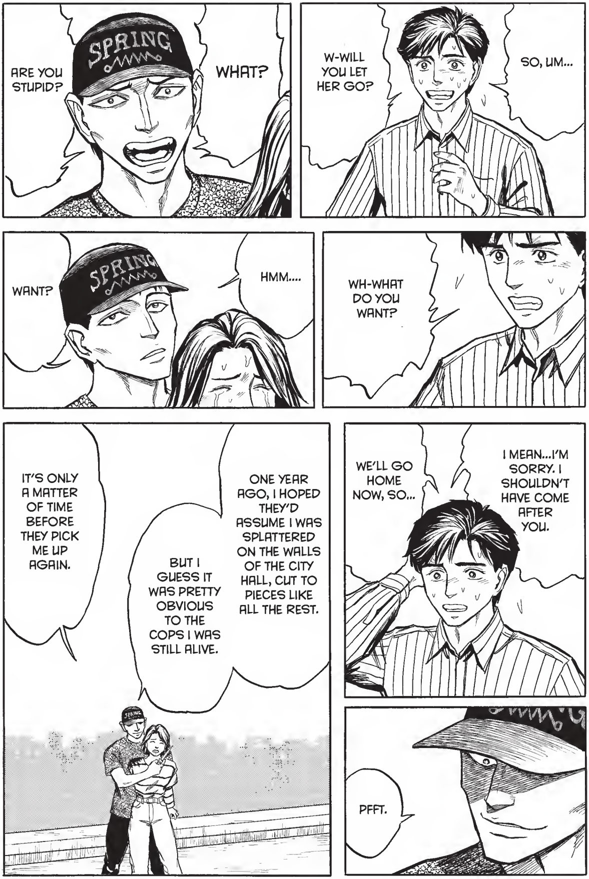

HEY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MM?
SPRING
SWISH

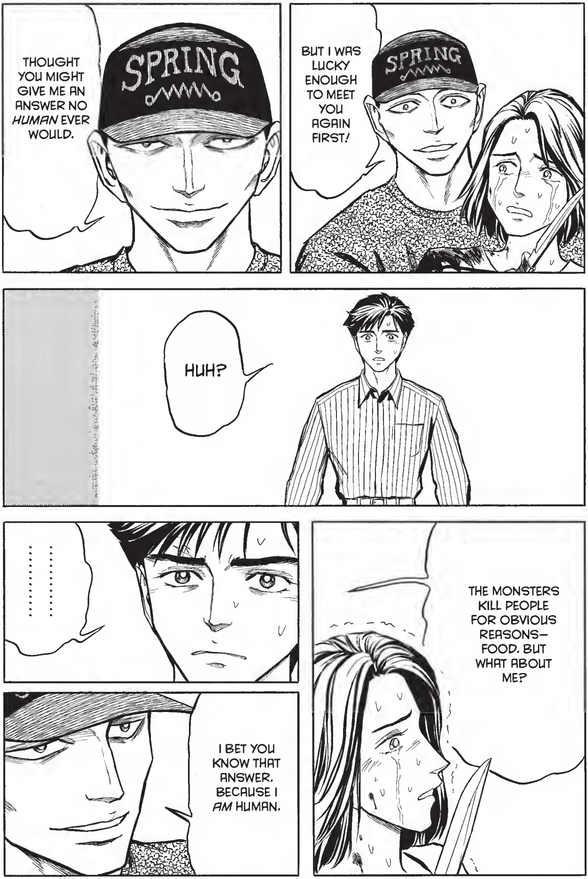

KAAHHHH.
KAH.......
AUGHH-HHHHHH!!
EEK!
AHHH!
WHAM

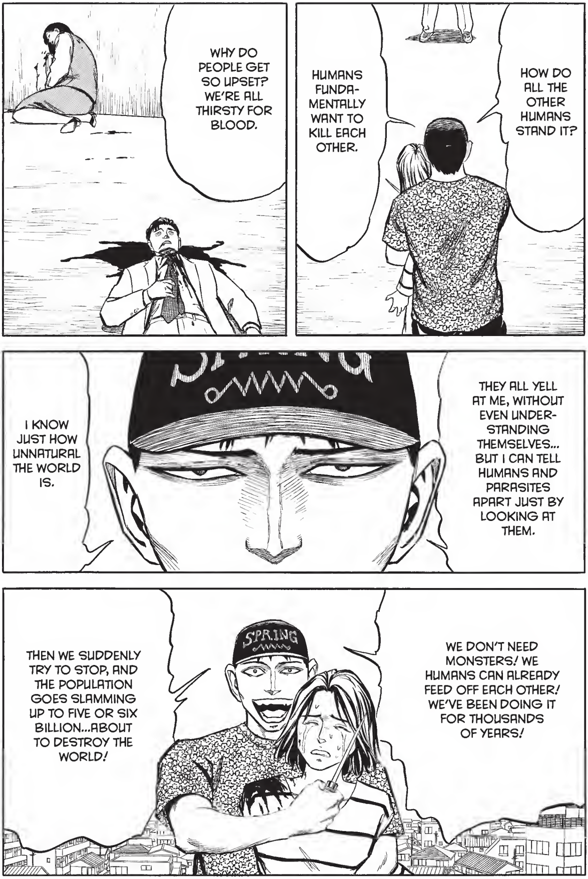

SCHUNK
SPRING
SAVING YOU FOR LATER.
FIRST, I WANNA TALK TO YOUR BOY.

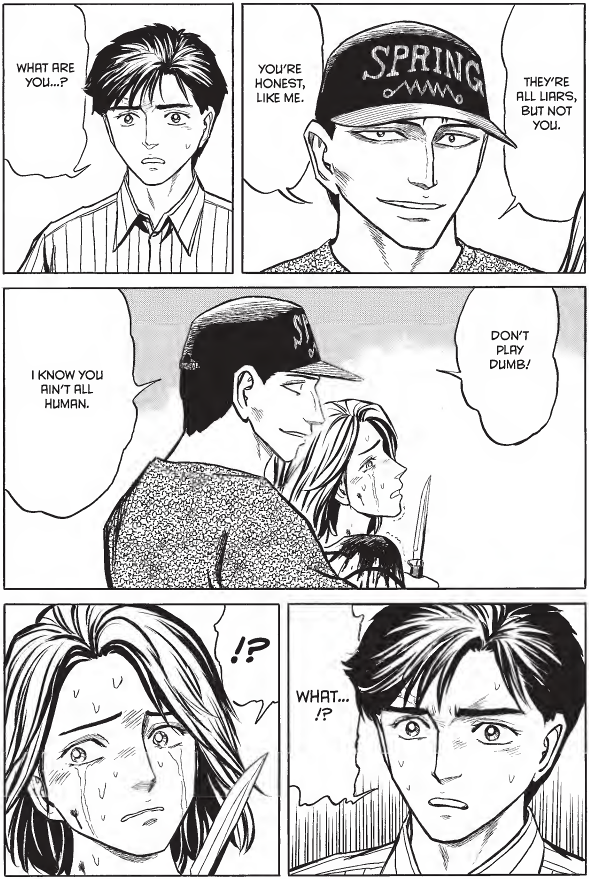

HAHH
HAHH
AUGH!!
H-HEY...
ズ
CLNK
YUCK!!

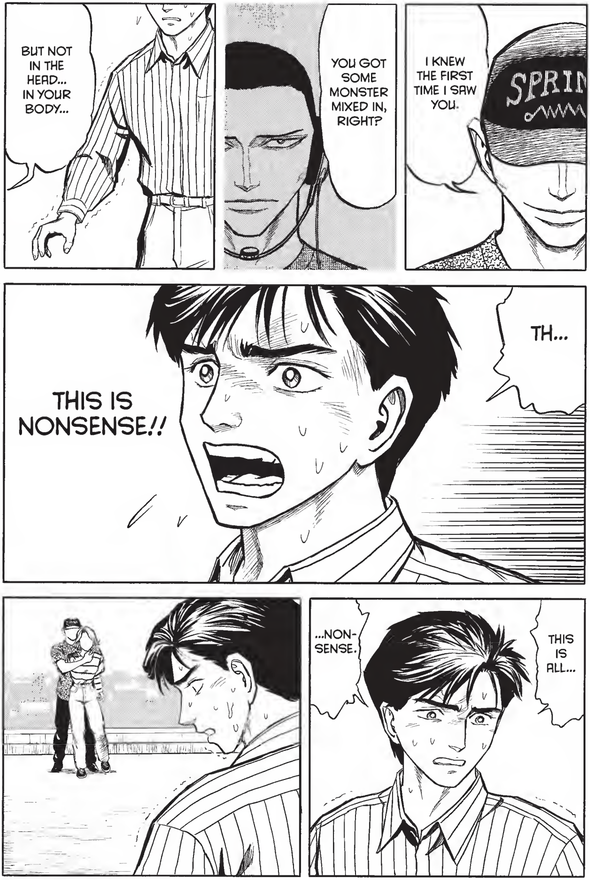

THAT WAS QUICK.
SATOMI !!
I....ZU... AH...
AW, HOW CUTE... SHE'S TOO SCARED TO TALK!
SPRING
STOP! WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?
NOTHING YET...
...THE BLOOD'S ALL THAT OTHER WOMAN'S.

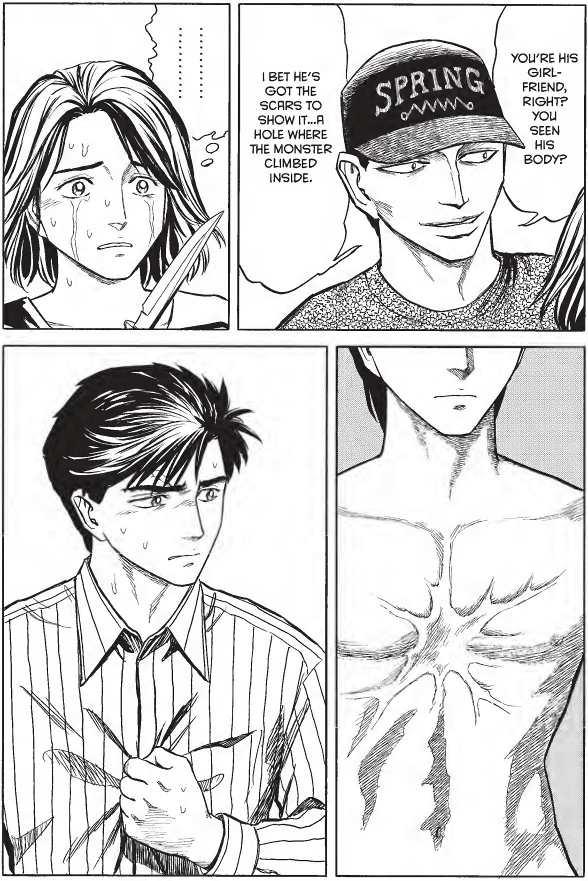

SO, UM...
W-WILL YOU LET HER GO?
WHAT?
ARE YOU STUPID?
SPRING
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HMM....
WANT?
SPRING
I MEAN...I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME AFTER YOU.
WE'LL GO HOME NOW, SO...
PFFT.
ONE YEAR AGO, I HOPED THEY'D ASSUME I WAS SPLATTERED ON THE WALLS OF THE CITY HALL, CUT TO PIECES LIKE ALL THE REST.
BUT I GUESS IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS TO THE COPS I WAS STILL ALIVE.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY PICK ME UP AGAIN.
SPRING

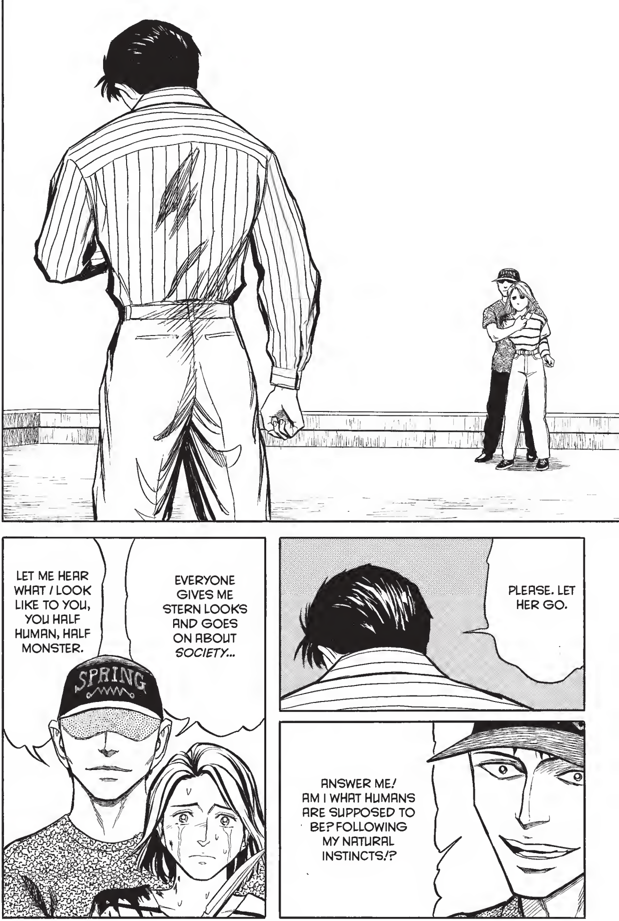

BUT I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET YOU AGAIN FIRST!
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT GIVE ME AN ANSWER NO *HUMAN* EVER WOULD.
SPRING
HUH?
THE MONSTERS KILL PEOPLE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS— FOOD. BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
......
I BET YOU KNOW THAT ANSWER. BECAUSE I *AM* HUMAN.

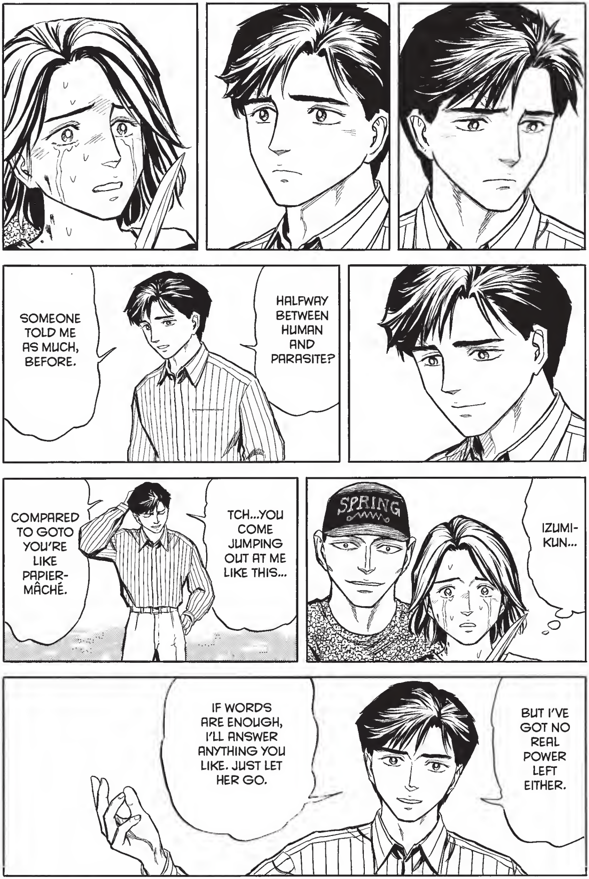

HOW DO ALL THE OTHER HUMANS STAND IT?
HUMANS FUNDAMENTALLY WANT TO KILL EACH OTHER.
WHY DO PEOPLE GET SO UPSET? WE'RE ALL THIRSTY FOR BLOOD.
THEY ALL YELL AT ME, WITHOUT EVEN UNDERSTANDING THEMSELVES... BUT I CAN TELL HUMANS AND PARASITES APART JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.
SPRING
I KNOW JUST HOW UNNATURAL THE WORLD IS.
WE DON'T NEED MONSTERS! WE HUMANS CAN ALREADY FEED OFF EACH OTHER! WE'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!
SPRING
THEN WE SUDDENLY TRY TO STOP, AND THE POPULATION GOES SLAMMING UP TO FIVE OR SIX BILLION...ABOUT TO DESTROY THE WORLD!

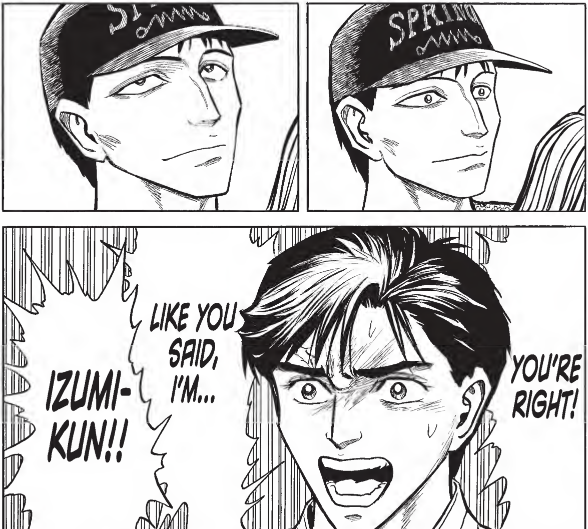

THEY'RE ALL LIARS, BUT NOT YOU.
YOU'RE HONEST, LIKE ME.
SPRING
WHAT ARE YOU...?
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
I KNOW YOU AIN'T ALL HUMAN.
WHAT... !?
!?

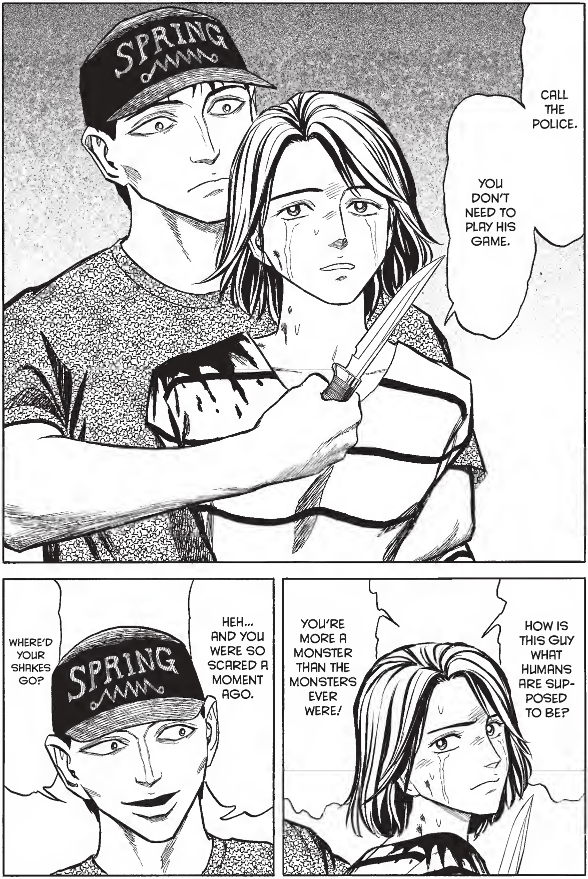

SPRIN
I KNEW THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.
YOU GOT SOME MONSTER MIXED IN, RIGHT?
BUT NOT IN THE HEAD... IN YOUR BODY...
TH...
THIS IS NONSENSE!!
THIS IS ALL...
...NON-SENSE.

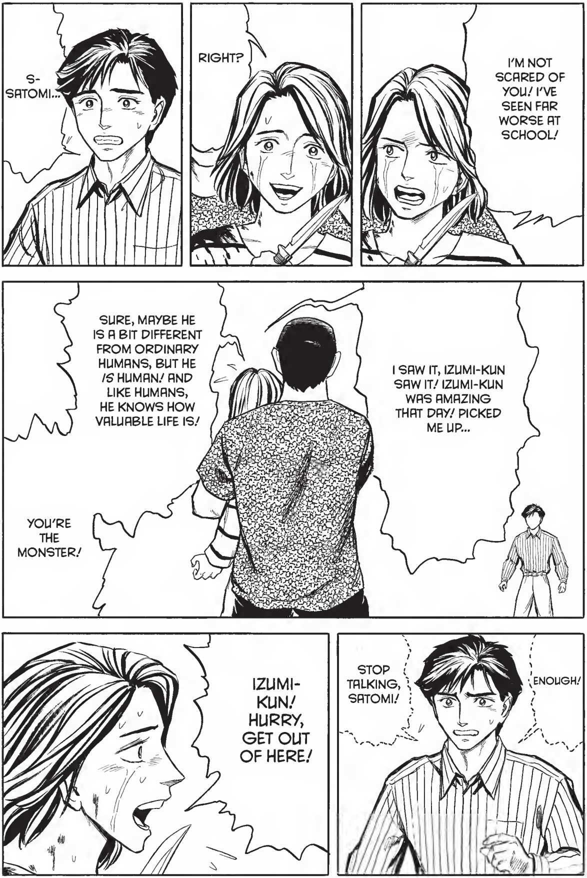

YOU'RE HIS GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT? YOU SEEN HIS BODY?
I BET HE'S GOT THE SCARS TO SHOW IT...A HOLE WHERE THE MONSTER CLIMBED INSIDE.
SPRING
......
......

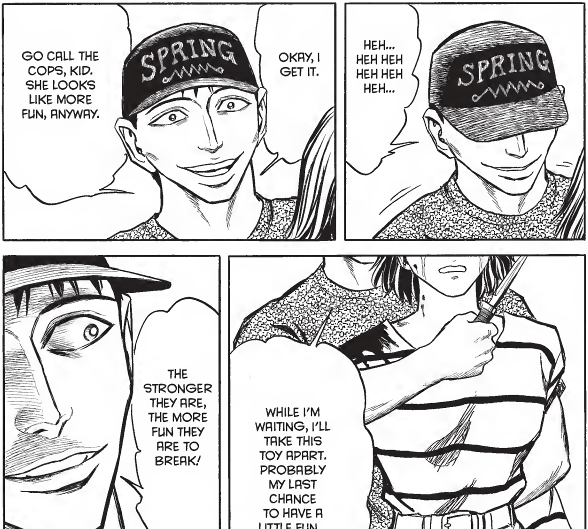

PLEASE. LET HER GO.
EVERYONE GIVES ME STERN LOOKS AND GOES ON ABOUT *SOCIETY*...
LET ME HEAR WHAT *I* LOOK LIKE TO YOU, YOU HALF HUMAN, HALF MONSTER.
SPRING
ANSWER ME! AM I WHAT HUMANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE? FOLLOWING MY NATURAL INSTINCTS!?

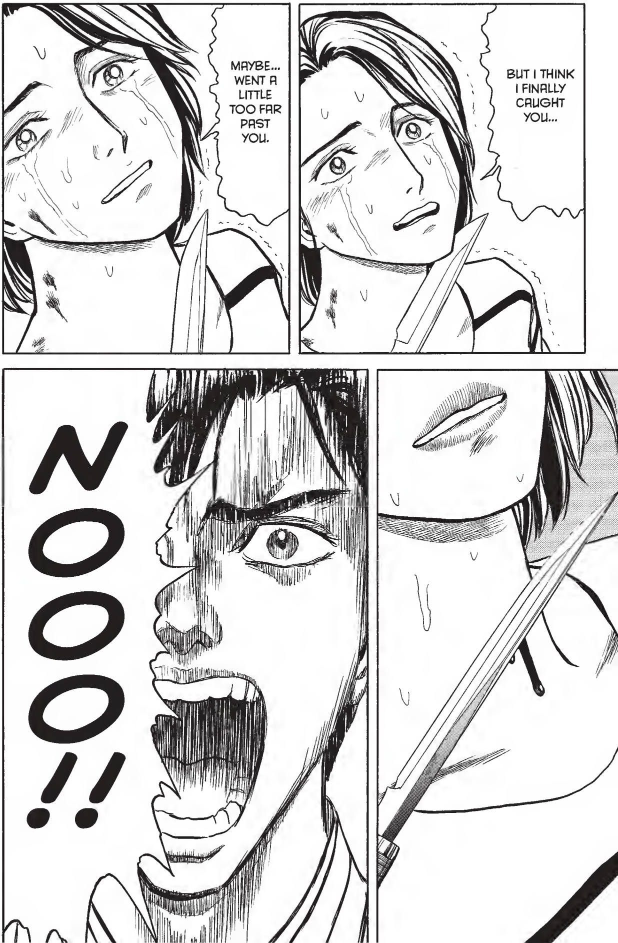

HALFWAY BETWEEN HUMAN AND PARASITE?
SOMEONE TOLD ME AS MUCH, BEFORE.
IZUMI-KUN...
SPRING
TCH...YOU COME JUMPING OUT AT ME LIKE THIS...
COMPARED TO GOTO YOU'RE LIKE PAPIER-MÂCHÉ.
BUT I'VE GOT NO REAL POWER LEFT EITHER.
IF WORDS ARE ENOUGH, I'LL ANSWER ANYTHING YOU LIKE. JUST LET HER GO.

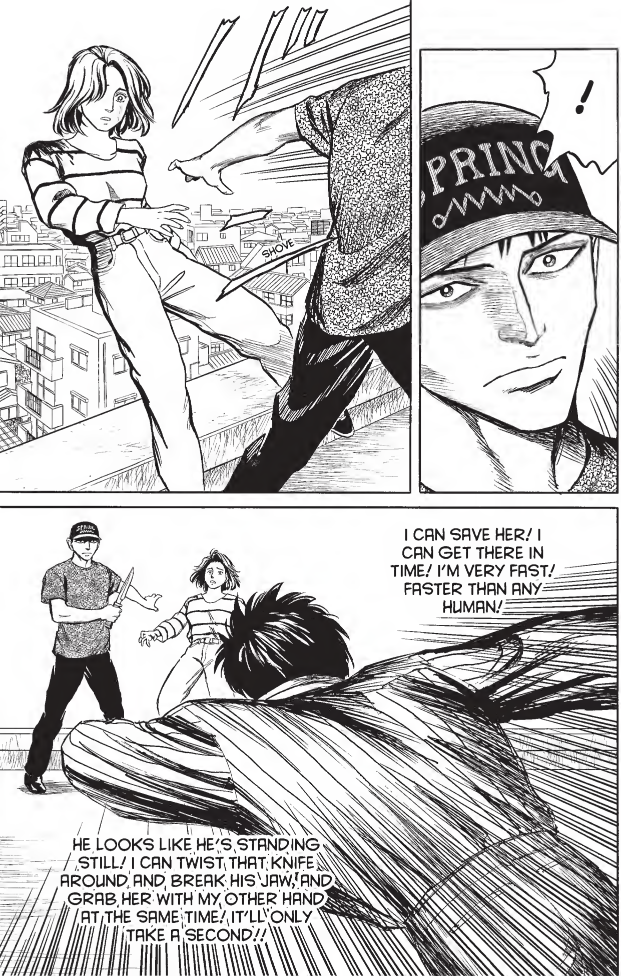

YOU'RE RIGHT!
LIKE YOU SAID, I'M...
IZUMI-KUN!!
......

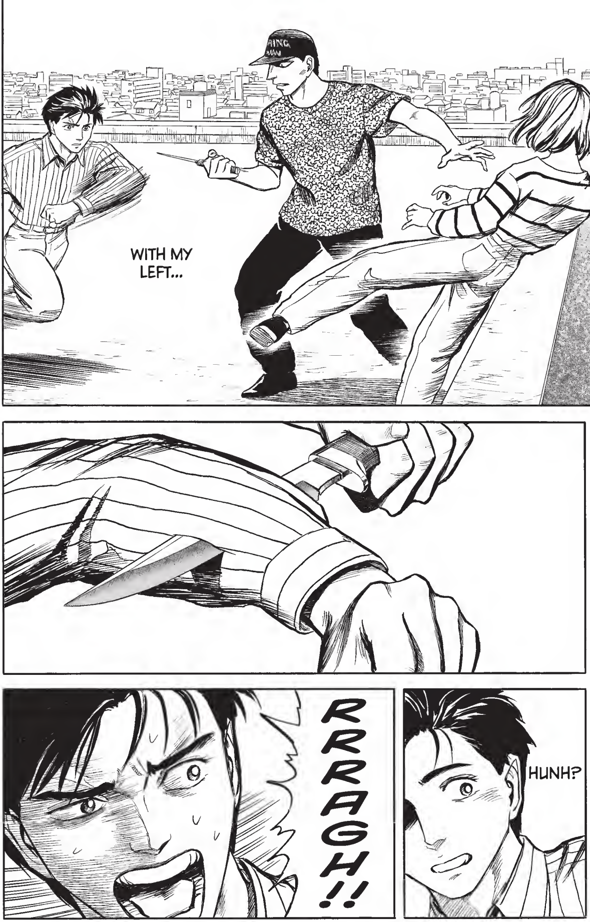

SPRING
CALL THE POLICE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO PLAY HIS GAME.
HOW IS THIS GUY WHAT HUMANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE?
YOU'RE MORE A MONSTER THAN THE MONSTERS EVER WERE!
HEH... AND YOU WERE SO SCARED A MOMENT AGO.
WHERE'D YOUR SHAKES GO?
SPRING

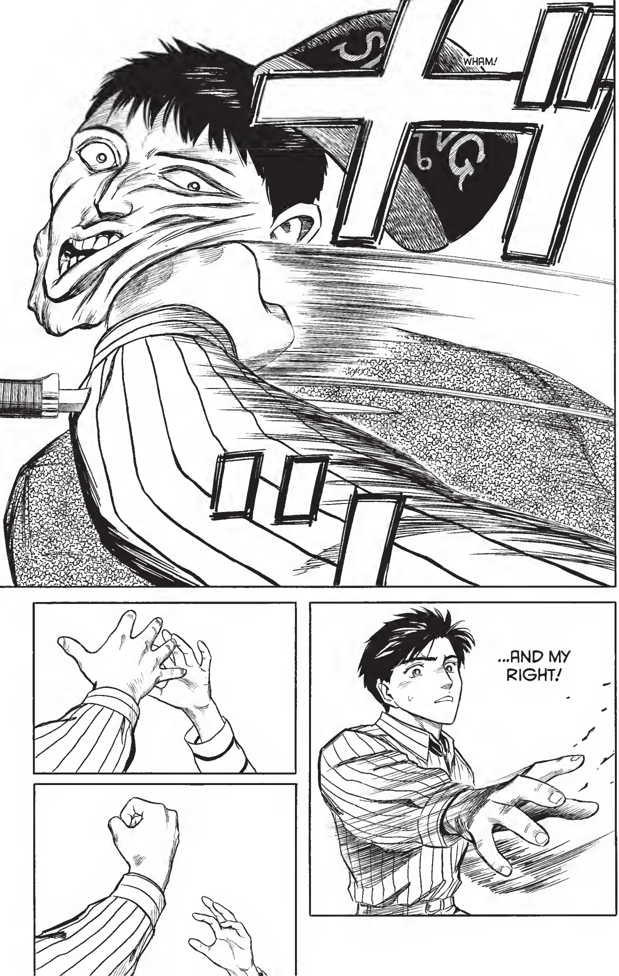

I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU! I'VE SEEN FAR WORSE AT SCHOOL!
RIGHT?
S- SATOMI...
I SAW IT, IZUMI-KUN SAW IT! IZUMI-KUN WAS AMAZING THAT DAY! PICKED ME UP...
SURE, MAYBE HE IS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM ORDINARY HUMANS, BUT HE *IS* HUMAN! AND LIKE HUMANS, HE KNOWS HOW VALUABLE LIFE IS!
YOU'RE THE MONSTER!
ENOUGH!
STOP TALKING, SATOMI!
IZUMI-KUN! HURRY, GET OUT OF HERE!

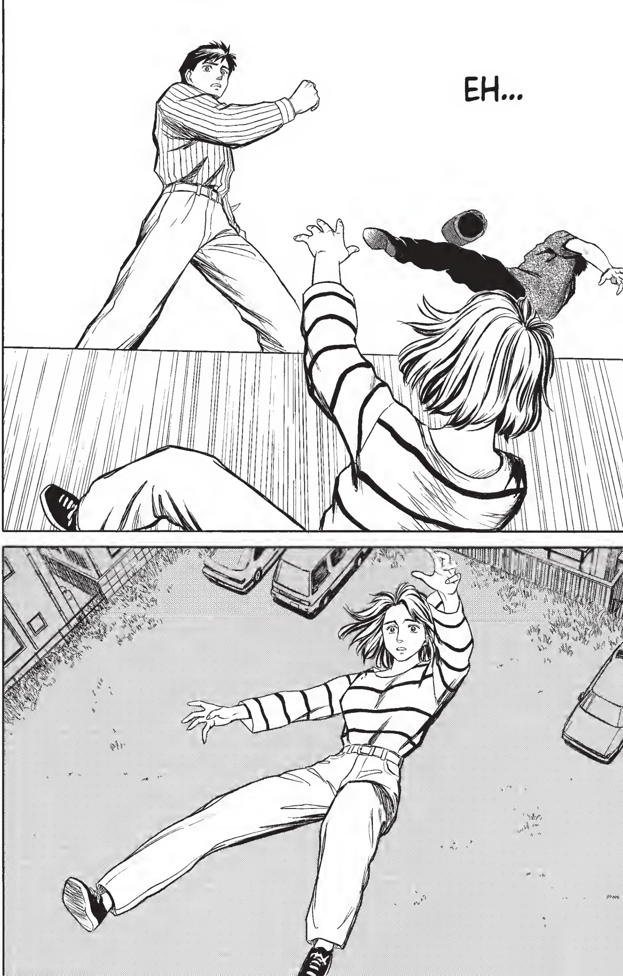

GO CALL THE COPS, KID. SHE LOOKS LIKE MORE FUN, ANYWAY.
SPRING
OKAY, I GET IT.
HEH... HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...
SPRING
THE STRONGER THEY ARE, THE MORE FUN THEY ARE TO BREAK!
WHILE I'M WAITING, I'LL TAKE THIS TOY APART. PROBABLY MY LAST CHANCE TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN...
BUT YOU MOVED SO FAST...AWAY FROM ME, INTO A WORLD I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... YOU LEFT *ME* BEHIND.
SH-SHINICHI-KUN! I ALWAYS...
...WANTED TO BE WITH YOU.

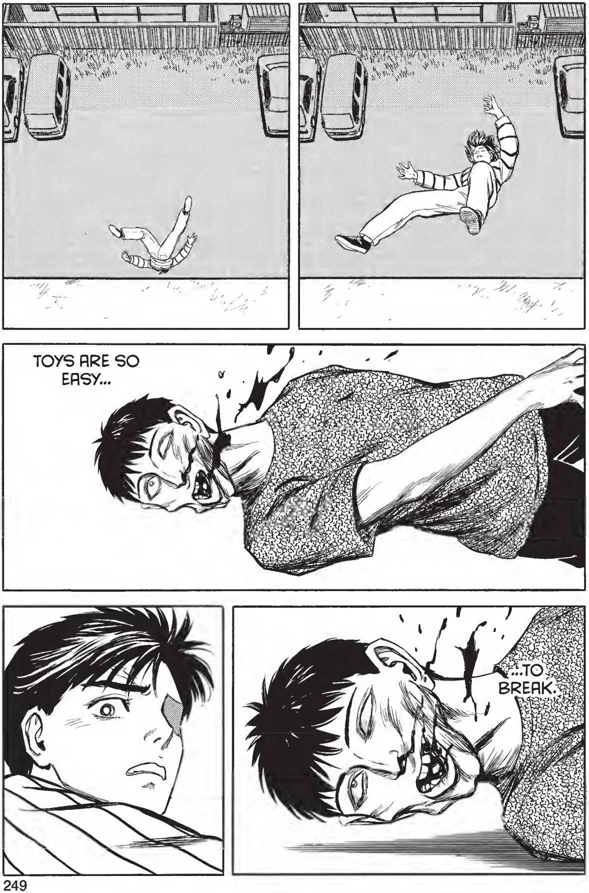

MAYBE... WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR PAST YOU.
BUT I THINK I FINALLY CAUGHT YOU...
NOOOO!!

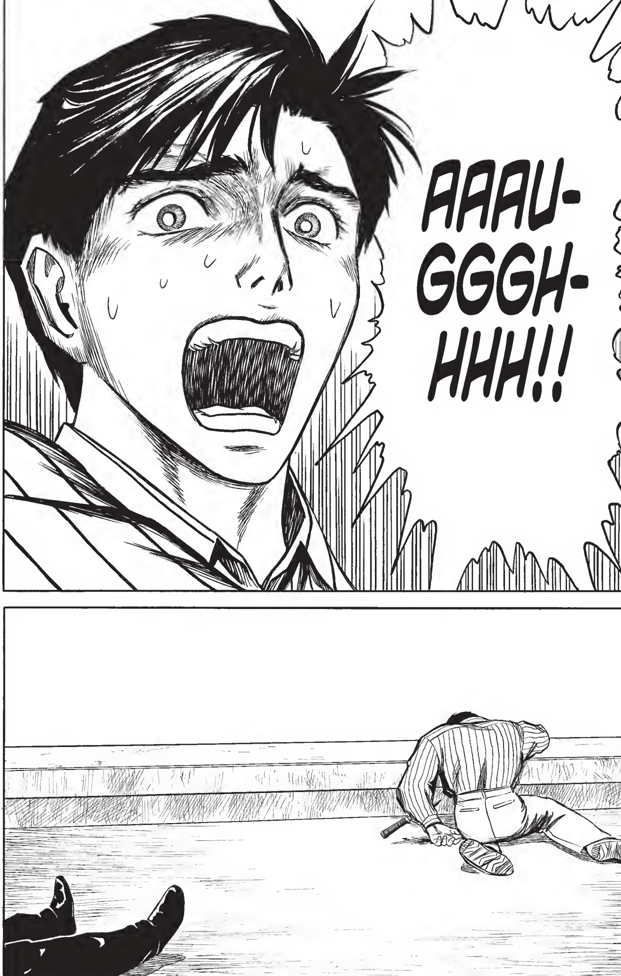

!
SHOVE
I CAN SAVE HER! I CAN GET THERE IN TIME! I'M VERY FAST! FASTER THAN ANY HUMAN!
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S STANDING STILL! I CAN TWIST THAT KNIFE AROUND AND BREAK HIS JAW, AND GRAB HER WITH MY OTHER HAND AT THE SAME TIME! IT'LL ONLY TAKE A SECOND!!

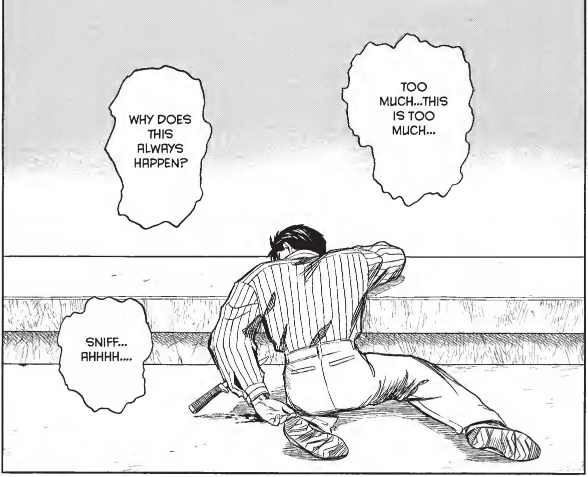

WITH MY LEFT...
RRRAGH!!
HUNH?

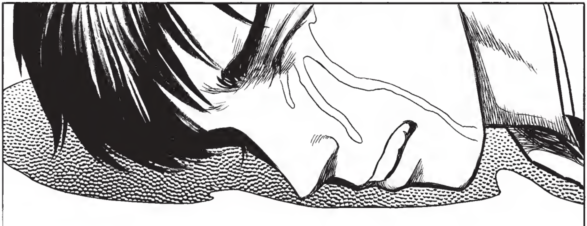

WHAM!
...AND MY RIGHT!

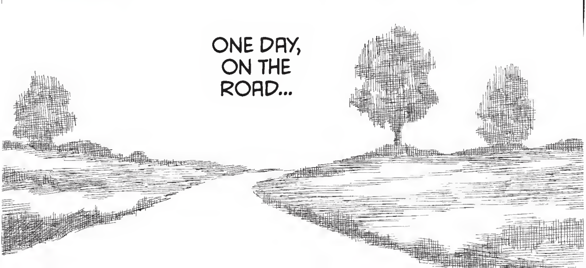

EH...

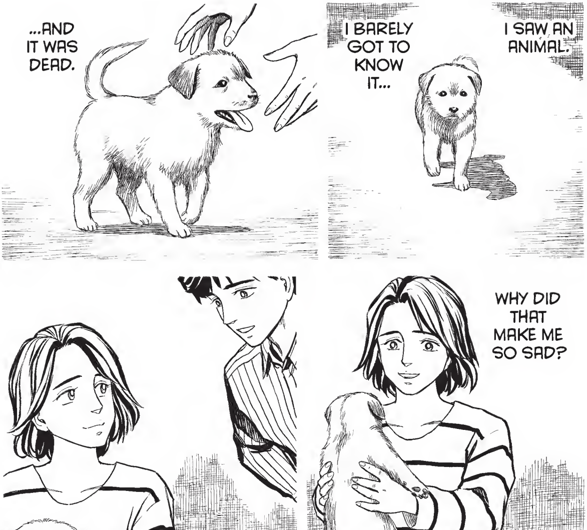

TOYS ARE SO EASY...
...TO BREAK.

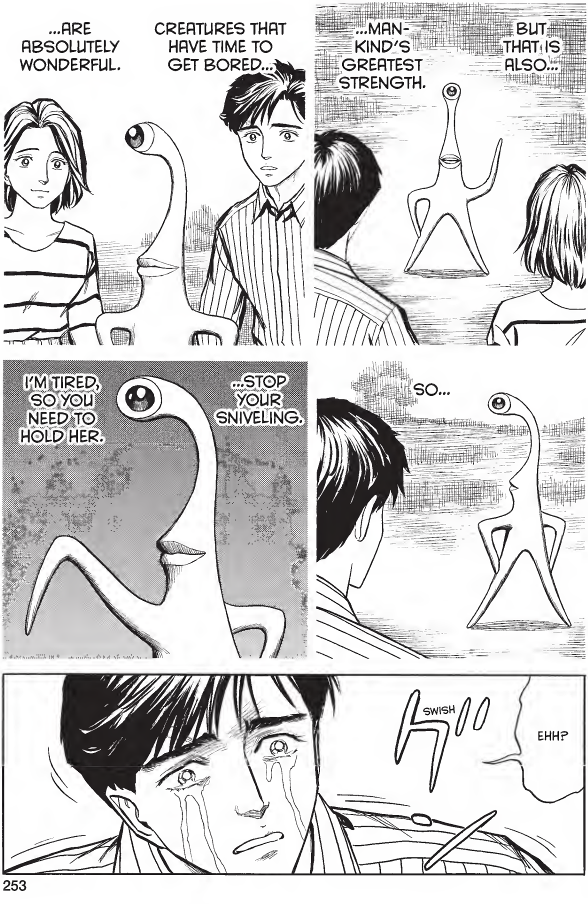

AAAU-GGGH-HHH!!

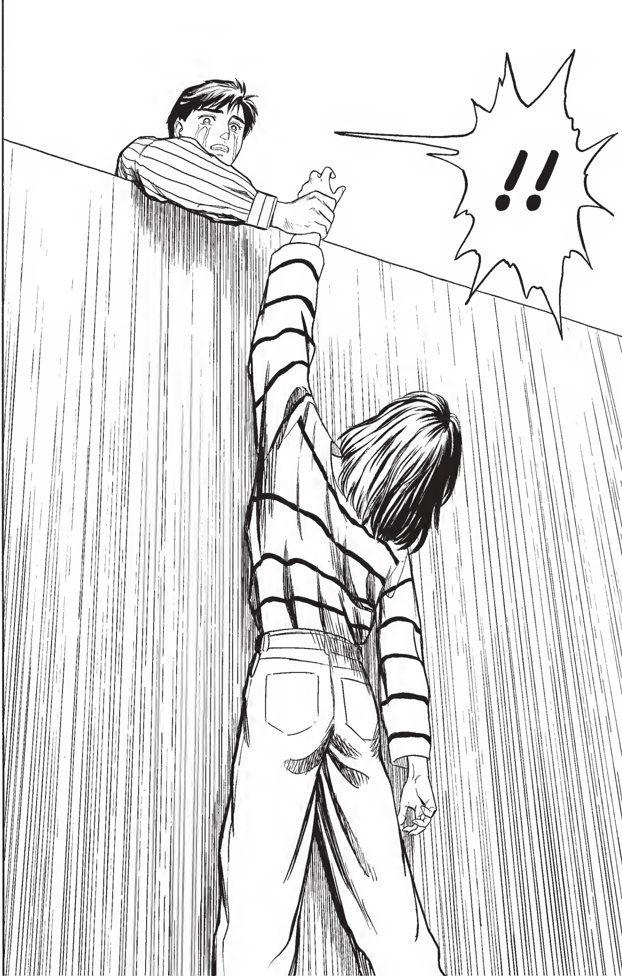

TOO MUCH...THIS IS TOO MUCH...
WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN?
SNIFF... AHHHH....

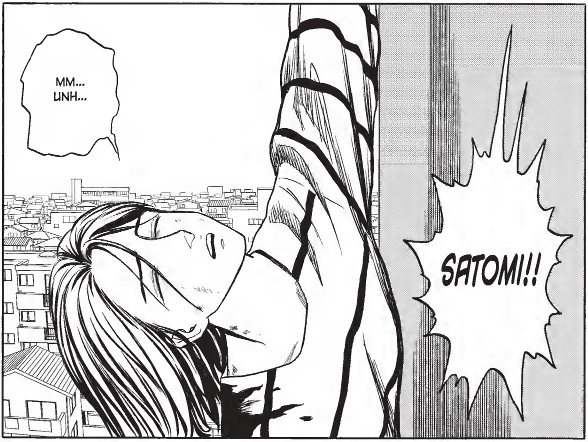


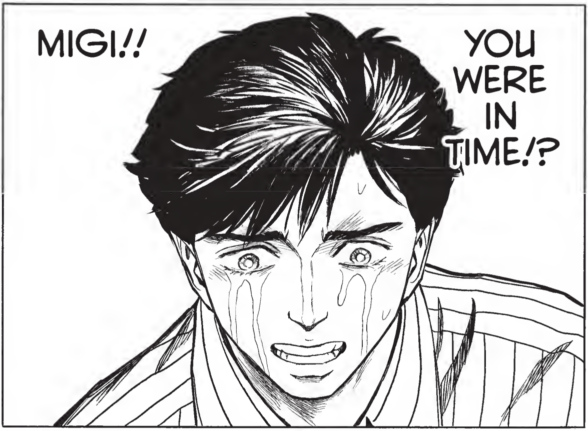

ONE DAY, ON THE ROAD...

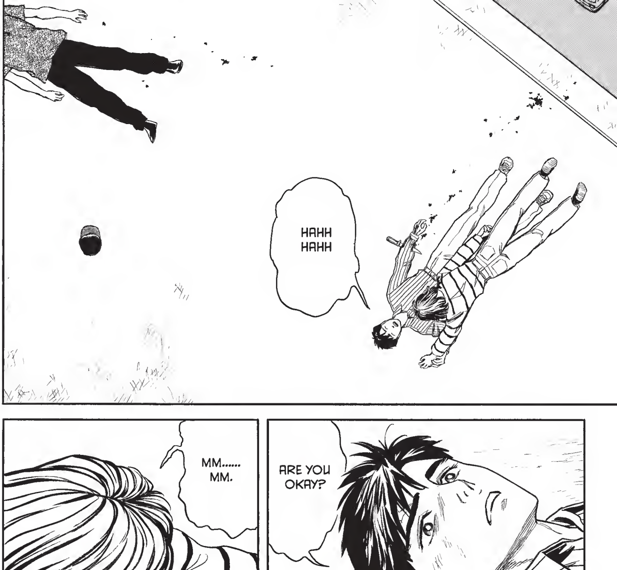

I SAW AN ANIMAL.
I BARELY GOT TO KNOW IT...
...AND IT WAS DEAD.
WHY DID THAT MAKE ME SO SAD?
THAT'S JUST HOW BORED HUMANS ARE.

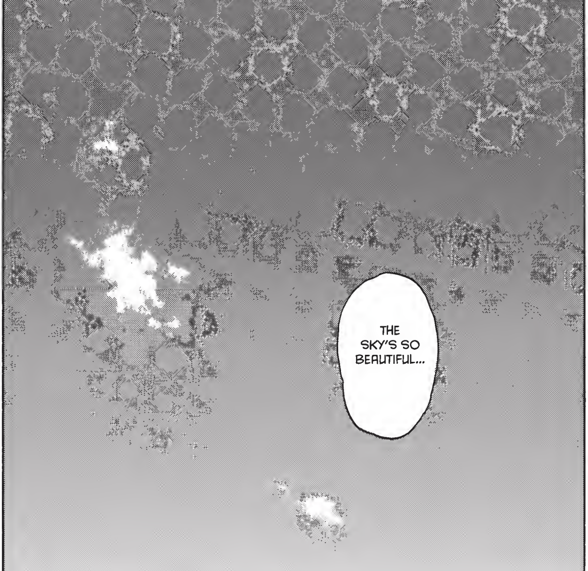

BUT THAT IS ALSO...
...MANKIND'S GREATEST STRENGTH.
CREATURES THAT HAVE TIME TO GET BORED...
...ARE ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL.
SO...
...STOP YOUR SNIVELING.
I'M TIRED, SO YOU NEED TO HOLD HER.
EHH?
SWISH

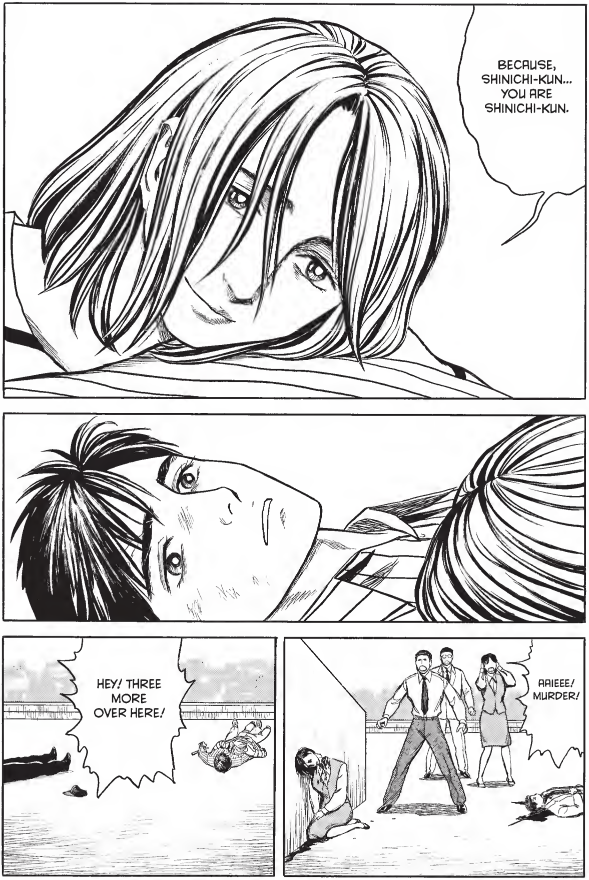


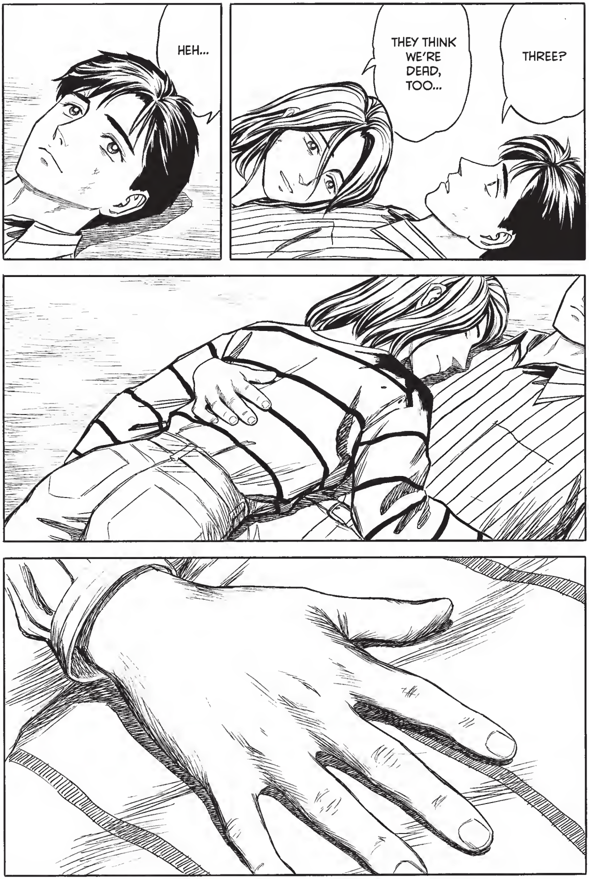

SATOMI!!
MM... UNH...

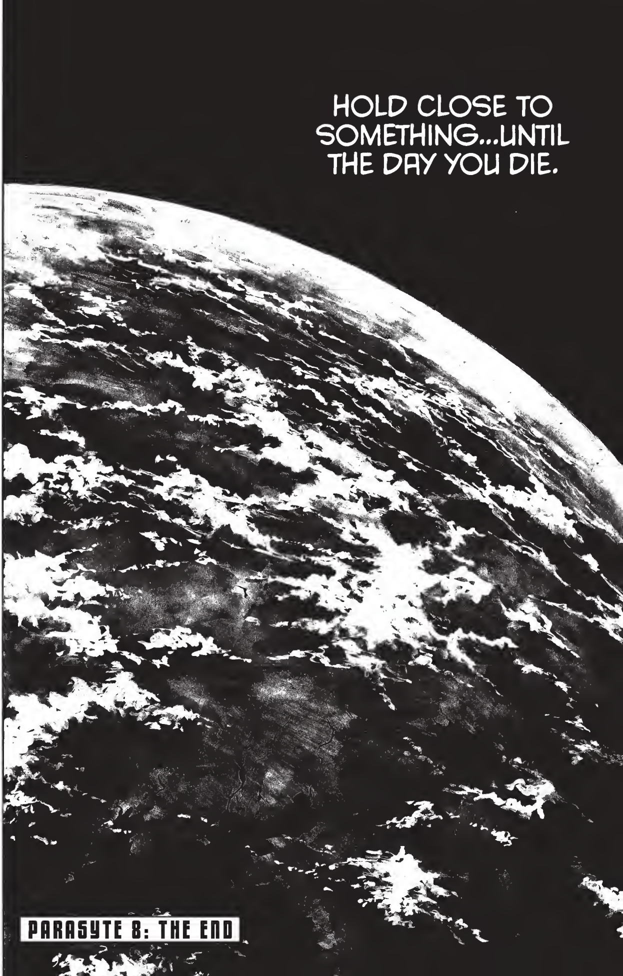

YOU WERE IN TIME!?
MIGI!!


HAHH
HAHH
ARE YOU OKAY?
MM...... MM.
THANK YOU, MIGI.
I KNEW YOU WERE STILL ALIVE!
DID SHE SEE HIM?
DOESN'T MATTER...EVEN IF SHE DID.


THE SKY'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
DO YOU REMEMBER... THE DEAD PUPPY WE FOUND?
THE ONE I TOSSED IN THE GARBAGE CAN...
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO BRING IT UP, BUT...AFTER THAT, I THOUGHT THINGS OVER, AND BURIED IT UNDER A TREE.
I KNOW.


BECAUSE, SHINICHI-KUN... YOU ARE SHINICHI-KUN.
AAIEEE! MURDER!
HEY! THREE MORE OVER HERE!


THREE?
THEY THINK WE'RE DEAD, TOO...
HEH...


HOLD CLOSE TO SOMETHING...UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE.
PARASYTE 8: THE END

# THE READERS ASK, THE AUTHOR ANSWERS

## From the Monthly Afternoon Readers' page...

**PARASYTE 8**

## vol. 16

"Do you agree with Hirokawa's words in Chapter 55, that men are the true parasites? Does the word 'parasyte' refer not to the parasites but to humans?"
(Aichi Prefecture, Hidari, 17, Student)

***"That was Hirokawa's opinion, not my own. But 'parasyte' might well refer to humans. After all, all living things are living parasitically on the earth."***
***(Hitoshi Iwaaki)***

(From *Afternoon,* March 1995)

"Question for you: If Shinichi had a child with Murano Satoshi, would that child inherit some of Migi's cells? That would be very interesting."
(Toyama Prefecture, New Parasyte, 16, Student)

***"Like*** **The Fly 2**_**! But Migi's cells aren't small enough to hitch a ride on a tadpole..."**_
***(Hitoshi Iwaaki)***

(From *Afternoon,* March 1995)

## From the Monthly Afternoon Readers' page...

**PARASYTE 8**

vol. 17

# THE READERS ASK, THE AUTHOR ANSWERS

"Tamura Reiko, who spent her time searching for a reason for her existence. Goto, much too strong, and eventually burned himself out in the heat of battle. Hirokawa, who, though human, stood with the parasites, pointing out the extravagance of mankind. Uragami, the personification of all mankind's most negative traits.

"But in the end, the strongest, most positive force was Satomi. The conclusions Shinichi reached after speaking with many parasites, and facing life and death over and over again...was where Satomi started out. No matter how foolish they are, no matter how hopeless their future may be, mankind is not yet lost. Everyone knows that, really—we've just forgotten. Is this because of our materialistic civilization? But if you strip humanity of all its decorations and leave it naked... Shinichi knows how wonderful that is. And Migi does, too...just as Tamura Reiko developed new emotions by caring for her child, Migi developed by watching Shinichi and Satomi. This story, obviously, describes Shinichi's growth, but it also shows Migi's. I think the last scene was one conclusive step along that journey. I've never seen another book that made me think this deeply about human life. Iwaaki-san...Thank you."

(Gunma Prefecture, ????)

***"Satomi tended to be more passive, so she was never as popular as the aggressive, outgoing Kana. But I hope she caught up at the end. The childish moments Kana showed between her tough facade, and the daring Satomi showed in the spotlight—I love drawing character's surprising, uncharacteristic actions. I always feel as if I've grown to understand them better." (Hitoshi Iwaaki)***

(From *Afternoon*, March 1995)

# THE READERS ASK, THE AUTHOR ANSWERS

## From the Monthly Afternoon Readers' page...

**PARASYTE 8**

vol. 18

"Migi's final theory about humans was hilarious. A creature that isn't human deciding humanity's greatest quality is their ability to be bored, and explaining the brilliance of that to humans. I knew then that he truly understood us, and, as a human, was very pleased."
(Osaka Prefecture, Kaiuchi Yuuki, 17, Student)

***"In Japanese class we always had to write ridiculous essays on what the writer most wanted to say, but if you had to write one on* Parasyte*, it would definitely be that final speech of Migi's. If I were grading your letter, you would get a very high score."***
***(Hitoshi Iwaaki)*** (From *Afternoon*, March 1995)

"I'm very sorry to see *Parasyte* end. It was the face of *Afternoon*! I would have liked to see Migi again at the end. That may be my one real complaint."
(Ibaragi Prefecture, TK, 33, Specialist)

***"At the end, I did draw a close-up of his right hand on Satomi's back. I toyed with the idea of drawing an eyeball on it, but I like it the way it is. But I thank you in Migi's stead."***
***(Hitoshi Iwaaki)*** (From *Afternoon*, March 1995)

"I never imagined Uragami would show up again. The final chapter really wrapped up all the loose ends! And I loved that the chapter title was 'You.' Thank you for such a wonderful series."
(Kanagawa Prefecture, Nemuro Miyako, 21)

***"I was a little embarrassed to use the title 'You.' But it seemed to fit better than anything else, so..."***
***(Hitoshi Iwaaki)*** (From *Afternoon*, March 1995)

## From the Reader's Page

**PARASYTE 8**

# THE AUTHOR EXPLAINS HIS FEELINGS ON COMPLETING THE SERIES.

I'd like to thank you for all the letters I've received. *Parasyte* has ended in the best manner I was capable of coming up with. By best, I mean with out any pressure or arguments about the publisher's schedule, with out any financial greed on my part—simply where the story itself dictated an ending. I was able to find my way to a natural conclusion without anything or anyone getting in my way. This was only possible with the generous support of the *Afternoon* editors, and the constant support I received from many, many readers. I can't thank you enough.

I have received a number of letters wishing I would continue the series. Naturally, I am grateful for these as well. But different manga artists approach their work in different manners. Some keep their characters active as long as the work remains popular, while others have a definite story in mind that leads to a conclusive ending. I am the latter type, which seems to be the minority in Japanese manga at the moment. *Parasyte* may have been a monthly serial, but it was one long, long story. It would never do to force it to continue and end up distorting the completeness of the work as a whole. As far as I'm concerned, the story is done. Any further events in these characters' lives I leave to the readers' imaginations. Shinichi and Migi are both still very much alive...(But please don't turn pro and actually continue their adventures. We do have copyright laws!)

I really enjoyed working on the series. For a while, I shall be saying good-bye to *Afternoon*, but I hope to return someday. May you all be in good health."

(Hitoshi Iwaaki)

(From *Afternoon,* March 1995)

# AFTER THE BOOK'S COMPLETION THE AUTHOR REFLECTS BACK ON HIS OWN WORK.

## Monthly Afternoon from Afternoon KC Parasyte Volume 10

**PARASYTE 8**

Several days had passed since I finished drawing the last issue of *Parasyte*.

A couple of my friends came over, and we started to drink. We started very late, around four in the morning, and for some reason (I was extremely drunk) I started playing with a knife. This was the same knife the killer Uragami used in the final chapter. I had purchased it to help me draw the knife consistently and accurately. The blade was about thirteen centimeters long, and with the handle included, the knife was about twenty-five centimeters—not especially large. But the blade was about five millimeters thick, and it had the weight of a small hatchet.

"Is it really that sharp?" Certainly, from the thickness of the blade it seemed unlikely to cut as well as a utility knife or razor blade. I tried cutting a plastic shopping bag that was lying next to me. The blade slid through without making a sound. "Ah, neat!" I thought, excitedly shredding the bag. But knives are much too dangerous to use when drunk. A moment later, I felt a pain on the thumb of my left hand, which was holding the bag. (I was too drunk for the pain to be all that strong.) When I looked, the tip of my thumb was missing, cut off diagonally. I quickly grabbed a paper towel and pressed it into my palm.

Neither of my friends had noticed yet, so I slipped away and called an ambulance. But then I suddenly needed to pee, so I headed for the bathroom. When I tried to undo my fly, I accidentally unclenched my injured hand. The bowl instantly turned red, and my friends noticed the blood in the other room.

One of them found the bit of severed flesh, which he described as being about the size of a lemon seed, but it had a bit of nail on it. My nails had been enough to stop utility knives and razors in the past, but they didn't stand a chance against the Uragami knife. Ah ha, I thought. So that's how well a thicker knife cuts. I wasn't sure if I'd managed to cut through any bone, but it seemed obvious the shape of my thumb would never be the same. Something to remember the end of *Parasyte* by.

But now, two months later, the nail has grown out (unsurprisingly), but the flesh bulked up just as well, and the blank skin has developed fingerprint lines. It looks almost like it did before. Even though I didn't ask for that.

Just like Migi! I thought, marveling at the mysteries of life. The notion of man vs. nature seemed even more absurd. Humans' own bodies are already controlled by a nature! Not to preach a new religion, but we are all living because nature allows us to live.

As the above story shows, I have a tendency to link almost anything to the themes of *Parasyte*, and I expect I will continue to do so for quite a while.

But it's finished now.

Every day just flew right by, and those five and a half years I spent on the book seem absolutely packed.

(con't on next page)

# AFTER THE BOOK'S COMPLETION THE AUTHOR REFLECTS BACK ON HIS OWN WORK.

## Monthly Afternoon from Afternoon KC Parasyte Volume 10

**PARASYTE 8**

I first got the basic idea for *Parasyte* quite a long time ago, several years before I actually made my professional debut. I worked on it while I was submitting different stories to publishers. If I recall correctly, it was a romantic comedy at the time. But the main character's hand would move on its own, causing all kinds of problems, which seemed like a neat idea to me...but thinking about it, not a particularly original idea. I put it in a drawer, and it stayed there for seven years.

I worked for a while as an assistant, and then made my debut and serialized a book called *Fuuko no Iru Mise* every other week in the weekly magazine *Morning*. This book was a human drama about a girl with a stammer working as a waitress in a coffee shop—about as different from *Parasyte* as possible.

Not only the contents of the story, but the way I wrote the manga was completely different. How? With Fuuko, I first had the characters, and then from those characters I came up with events. But with *Parasyte*, I started with events, and then created characters to deal with them. With the former, it was very painful to come up with events that matched the characters, and ended up being a very amateurish book, but starting with events proved extremely fun, and my hands flew across the pages. Apparently, I was this kind of manga artist. I did not even realize it until the ideas behind *Parasyte* pulled it out of me. I knew this would turn out well.

I'd never had that feeling before.

I'd love to say that the story of *Parasyte* was exactly as I'd expected from start to finish, but that is not the case. The planned ending went from three chapters to three volumes, no five, seven, nine...and finally ended up being ten volumes.

And the nature of the story changed quite a bit from my original plan. A perfect example is the final scene with the strongest enemy, Goto.

When I wrote the first chapter of *Parasyte*, there was little talk about the environment, and ecology was not yet the hot topic it is today. There were very few people talking about the foolishness of mankind. So I thought nothing of starting the first issue with a sort of alarm bell toward the culture of mankind. But once people all over the world started saying similar things, it began to bother me. It was embarrassing to have my work saying the same thing as everyone else. Possibly I'm just being contrary, but it made me want to tell people to stop talking about the foolishness of mankind.

(con't on next page)

Monthly Afternoon from Afternoon KC Parasyte Volume 10

**PARASYTE 8**

So going back to Goto's end, my original plan did not lead to Goto dying. When Goto started putting himself back together, Shinichi was going to leave him there, and head home. I had two different theories for what would happen to Goto after that. One had him reviving completely, despising the pollution of Japan, growing a giant pair of wings, and flying off toward beautiful nature. The other one had him unable to revive completely and living on in the mountains as some other kind of creature, preying on humans. Both are awful. And rather lazy. But it bothered me to just destroy Goto, since he was representative of beautiful wildness and the greatness of nature—as opposed to the destructive, polluting foolishness of humans.

But since so many people around me were going on about the foolishness of mankind, it forced my cranky mind to try and move beyond that.

Much like the words in the first pages ended up being echoed by Mayor Hirokawa, representing a certain group of humans, at the climax the main character turned back around and dirtied his hands. This idea began with my own twisted way of thinking, but I can't help but feel the result was better because of it.

All these changes and surprises did not drive the story in a direction I never wanted it to go. There were no physical or mental blocks or accidents to get in the way of me finishing the series successfully, for which I am very grateful. I want to thank you all very much.

*Parasyte* as a series was a success, as long as we remember to add "as far as Hitoshi Iwaaki goes." In the future the series will be less of a hurdle than a wall. I don't want it to be considered my one great work, and I don't want my next series to be considered a rehash of it. I'm working very hard to avoid either.

I'm sure there are people out there who don't much see the point of this essay, but when putting a volume of manga together we often end up with a few blank pages at the end. And it's always been a bad habit of mine to say things that didn't need to be said.

Thank you for reading.

Hitoshi Iwaaki
February 1995

## Monthly Afternoon Series Analysis

**PARASYTE 8**

# TSURUMI SHUNSUKE ANALYSIS

### This Book

I am eighty years old now, but I can safely say that *Parasyte* is among the best books I have ever read.

Reading this book changed the way I perceived events. For example, right now, SARS is spreading. I feel like bacteria go off somewhere, have a bacteria conference, and then come back in a new form, with new strategies.

What do they say about humans at these bacteria conferences? Humans are so busy killing each other, which few other animals do. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And here they are, ready and willing to join in.

I first read *Parasyte* ten years ago. I bought all ten volumes in a local bookstore, and started reading after dinner. A few volumes in I was complete immersed in this world. It grew dark outside, and I'd recently had heart surgery, so I knew I should turn in, but that idea was one of logic, and I did not want to obey. I didn't care if I collapsed again, I wanted to keep reading. When I finished all ten volumes it was dawn.

When the ending to a long work is good, it stays with you for a long time. At the end of *Parasyte*, the main character, as one living thing, and as a part-parasite decides logically that he has no right to kill parasites. But he changes his mind. He knows parasites have committed no sin, but he is just a small creature, who wants to protect his family and friends. With this in mind, he turns around, and finishes off the helpless parasite. Every step of this mental journey is clearly drawn.

One character on the parasite's side studies the habits of humans, hoping to live in peace with them. Every exchange with this beautiful woman is powerful stuff. She hands the human baby she gave birth to over to the main character, and tells him to take care of the baby, because it is human...and is then shot to death by the police.

Not only her. The main character himself has a parasite living in his arm, and becomes half-human, half-parasite. With this background, he finds his path.

I read this book when I was seventy. Ten years later, I am eighty. I have read other books as passionately as this one. I have bent down before a low bookshelf, pulled off an Iwanami Bunko volume and, still crouching, started reading. When I started reading it was bright out, when I stopped reading it was dark out. This was a book by Turgenev called *Rudin*. At the end of the book, the Russian main character, Rudin, is shot to death by French police. His companions cry out, "A Polish man has died" but Rudin was not Polish. He dies without his companions knowing who he is. I thought to myself that this was another way to live. At the time I was fifteen, and capable of reading an entire book while crouching. I could never dream of doing that now.

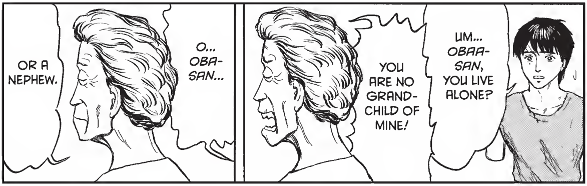
When I am unable to get out of bed and too weak to raise my arms, what books will play across my closed eyelids? Just as *Rudin* has lived inside me for sixty-five years, I am sure, when that time comes, *Parasyte* will be there, too.

# TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

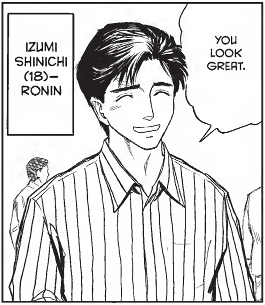
**Oba-san, page 50**

Largely an untranslatable exchange, since she's objecting to his form of address. The Japanese language prefers using names or titles to any of the many second person pronouns. Since Shinichi doesn't know her name, he first calls her *oba-san*, which literally means "grandmother" and is often used with people her age. When she snaps at him, he changed it to *oba-san*, which means "aunt" and is often used to refer to middle-aged women.


UM... OBAA-SAN, YOU LIVE ALONE?
YOU ARE NO GRANDCHILD OF MINE!
O... OBA-SAN...
OR A NEPHEW.

**Ronin, page 206**

Entrance to university in Japan requires passing a difficult exam. Students who fail the exam for their university of choice are called *ronin*, after the old word for masterless samurai. They attend cram schools and study hard, trying to pass the exam the next year.



**Toys, page 249**

The kanji here says "human," but the *furigana* says "toy." I had to choose one, and I figured toy made it clear that this was Uragami talking.

**????, page 262**

This pen name appears to be in Chinese.

**Tsurumi Shunsuke, page 268**

Shunsuke Tsurumi, [1922–] is a Japanese literary critic and philosopher famous enough to have a stub on Wikipedia. Apparently, he is quite the manga fan.

**Iwanami Bunko, page 268**

Iwanami Bunko is similar to Penguin Classics—a publisher of literary classics in affordable paperbacks.

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RESERVoir CHRoNiCLE

# TSUBASA

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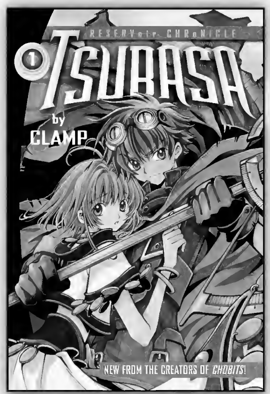

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## YUKI URUSHIBARA

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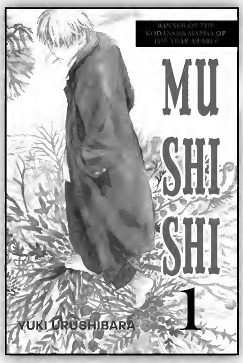

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# NEGIMA!? NEO

MAGISTER NEGI MAGI

**STORY BY KEN AKAMATSU**
**ART BY TAKUYA FUJIMA**

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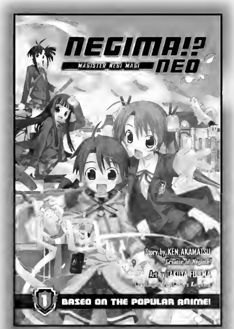
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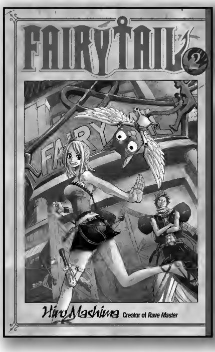
**FROM HIRO MASHIMA,**
**CREATOR OF *RAVE MASTER***

# FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL 1
Hiro Mashima Creator of Rave Master


FAIRY TAIL 2
FAIRY
Hiro Mashima Creator of Rave Master

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**MANGA BY AKINARI NAO**
**STORY BY YUYA AOKI**

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- Story by Yuya Aoki, creator of *Get Backers*

Psycho Busters
I
Manga by
Akinari Nao
Story by
Yuya Aoki,
the creator of
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# SHUGO CHARA!

**PEACH-PIT**

Creators of *Dears* and *Rozen Maiden*

Everybody at Seiyo Elementary thinks that stylish and super-cool Amu has it all. But nobody knows the *real* Amu, a shy girl who wishes she had the courage to truly be herself. Changing Amu's life is going to take more than wishes and dreams—it's going to take a little magic! One morning, Amu finds a surprise in her bed: three strange little eggs. Each egg contains a Guardian Character, an angel-like being who can give her the power to be someone new. With the help of her Guardian Characters, Amu is about to discover that her true self is even more amazing than she ever dreamed.

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SHUGO CHARA! 1

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# KITCHEN PRINCESS

**STORY BY MIYUKI KOBAYASHI**
**MANGA BY NATSUMI ANDO**
**CREATOR OF ZODIAC P.I.**

## HUNGRY HEART

KITCHEN PRINCESS
1
custard pudding
taramasalata
rainbow colored jelly
christmas cookie
onion gratin soup
Story by
MIYUKI KOBAYASHI
Manga by
NATSUMI ANDO
Creator of Zodiac P.I.

**Najika is a great cook and likes to make meals for the people she loves. But something is missing from her life. When she was a child, she met a boy who touched her heart—and now Najika is determined to find him. The only clue she has is a silver spoon that leads her to the prestigious Seika Academy.**

**Attending Seika will be a challenge. Every kid at the school has a special talent, and the girls in Najika's class think she doesn't deserve to be there. But Sora and Daichi, two popular brothers who barely speak to each other, recognize Najika's cooking for what it is—magical. Could one of the boys be Najika's mysterious prince?**

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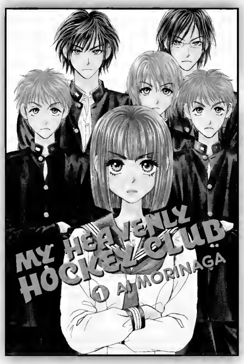
# MY HEAVENLY HOCKEY CLUB

### BY AI MORINAGA

**WHERE THE BOYS ARE!**

Hana Suzuki loves only two things in life: eating and sleeping. So when handsome classmate Izumi Oda asks Hana—his major crush—to join the school hockey club, convincing her proves to be a difficult task. True, the Grand Hockey Club is full of boys—and all the boys are super-cute—but, given a choice, Hana prefers a sizzling steak to a hot date. Then Izumi mentions the field trips to fancy resorts. Now Hana can't wait for the first away game, with its promise of delicious food and luxurious linens. Of course there's the getting up early, working hard, and playing well with others. How will Hana survive?



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***Parasyte* volume 8**

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